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UCC to present Harper with Shevchenko medal

Initial date postponed over uncertainty with election

By Marco Levytsky

The Ukrainian Canadian Congress will be presenting Prime Minster Stephen Harper with a Shevchenko Medal at a special tribute event to be held at a yet unspecified date.

Initially scheduled for March 25, the Tribute dinner was postponed March 17 to a mutually acceptable future date.

"Given the uncertainty around whether there will be a confidence motion in the House of Commons during the Opposition Day which has been scheduled for March 25, 2011 or the potential timing of a federal election, it was decided that the tribute to Prime Minister Harper would be postponed," stated UCC National President Paul Grod. "We do not want to politicize the good work done by the Prime Minister and the reason he is a recipient of the Shevchenko medal."

Prime Minister Harper was selected to receive the Shevchenko Medal on Feb. 6, 2011 by the Board of Directors of the Ukrainian Canadian Congress upon the recommendation of its Awards Committee. The Tribute event had been scheduled to physically present the award to the Prime Minister.

That decision, which was announced in a March 2 media release, sparked controversy as some members of the community questioned both the timing of the event, and the unresolved issue of the Canadian Museum of Human Rights (CMHR).

In a string of e-mail correspondence between himself and the UCC National Office released to this newspaper, Port Moody, BC, lawyer Michael Maryn stated: "What is most concerning is that PM Harper is receiving this medal at a time when his government is about to call an election. This is blatant political pandering by the UCC Executive."

"In the face of the Ukrainian Canadian Communities treatment in the Human Rights Museum issue this prime minister is not deserving of this prestigious honour," he added.

Columnist Oksana Bashuk Hepburn stated that because of the CMHR issue "any well-intended award for the Prime Minister falls under a pall". (See Page 7 if this issue)

In a telephone interview with Ukrainian News March 14, Grod said suggestions to award the prime Minister with the Shevchenko medal first surfaced during his October visit to Ukraine and were brought forward by several UCC member organizations.

It was first proposed that Harper be presented with the medal during the Triennial Congress held in Edmonton last November, but the Prime Minister was unable to attend because of other commitments.

Christmas holidays intervened and "we left it in the court of the Prime Minister's Office that they suggest the dates when the Prime Minister would be prepared to receive the award."

The PMO wanted the award as soon as possible, perhaps early February, but the process is more complicated. Notice had to be given the UCC Board and a meeting was called in February where the board deliberated and decided to present the award. The PMO decided on the March 25 date, said Grod.

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Canada

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PHOTO — MARCO LEVYTSKY

Yarmarok features Ukrainian culture

Over 1500 attended Verkhovyna Song and Dance and Song Ensemble's Yarmarok, held March 5 and 6 at the Ukrainian Youth Unity Complex in Edmonton. The fund-raiser features Ukrainian performers, food, crafts and much more. Pictured above: The Edmonton School of Ukrainian Dance perform. For more see page 9 of this issue.

Multilingual education "absolutely critical", says Horner

By Marco Levytsky

Alberta Progressive Conservative leadership candidate Doug Horner says it's "absolutely critical that our youth have more than one language".

Speaking with Ukrainian News during an interview March 9, Horner noted that Albertans need many languages to do business in a global economy and that Eastern Europe is going to be a hotbed of activity for many years to come.

"We should embrace the fact that we have dual languages or multi languages. We shouldn't be saying 'only if you can afford it'. We should be embracing it. I think it adds to the learning experience of the kids and it adds to the basic education package," he added.

Former Deputy Premier and Minister of Advanced Education, Horner was asked whether he supports the Ukrainian bilingual program in Alberta and about federal Citizenship, Immigration and Multiculturalism Minister Jason Kenney's 2009 comment to the Calgary Herald: "I think it's really neat that a fifth-generation Ukrainian Canadian can speak Ukrainian – but pay for it yourself."

"Did he really say that?" reacted Horner, laughing.

When assured that he did, he added: "No kidding?", then stated he won't comment on Kenney's statement

Cont. on P. 3

PHOTO — MARCO LEVYTSKY

When the Saints Go Marching In

Vinok Worldance's musicians and dancers started off the festivities with a rousing rendition of "When the Saints Go Marching In" during their Mardi Gras celebrations at the Chateau Louis Conference Centre in Edmonton, March 5. For more see page 12 of this issue.

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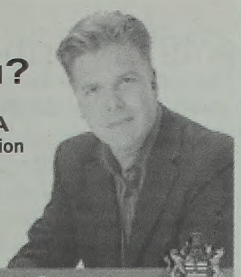

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Дмитро Шурхало, *Радіо Свобода*

Оголошений у міжнародний розшук російський громадянин Алімжан Тохтахунов, відомий також як кримінальний авторитет «Тайванчик», заявив, що після приходу до влади в Україні Віктора Януковича він став відвідувати Київ. Українські прикордонники сказали Радіо Свобода, що жодних доручень від правоохоронних органів щодо цієї людини не мають. Натомість факт перебування в Україні Алімжана Тохтаунова підтвердив один із провладних членів парламентського комітету з питань боротьби з організованою злочинністю та корупцією. На думку опозиції, Україна таким чином порушує взяті на себе міжнародні зобов'язання.

За словами російського громадянина Алімжана Тохтахунова, зараз йому закрито в'їзд практично в усі країни світу. Проте Тахтахунов, відомий також як кримінальний авторитет «Тайванчик», в інтерв'ю російському журналові GQ розповів, що за Президента Віктора Януковича став їздити до Києва.

У 2002 році проти Алімжана Тохтахунова у Сполучених Штатах порушили кримінальну справу за звинуваченням у спробі тиску та підкупу спортивних суддів. Йому загрожує 5 років ув'язнення та 250 тисяч доларів штрафу.

Відтоді він оголошений Інтерполом у міжнародний розшук – в електронній картотеці проти його прізвища стоїть червона позначка, що означає вимогу арешту в разі його появи на території країн-членів Інтерполу, однією з яких є Україна.

«Ми взяли на себе міжнародно-правові зобов'язання затримувати тих осіб, яких Інтерпол оголошує в міжнародний розшук, – зауважує перший заступник голови парламентського комітету з питань боротьби з організованою злочинністю та корупцією Геннадій Москаль. – Російська конституція говорить, що громадянин Росії не може бути затриманий, арештований і виданий іншій країні за жодних умов. Але якщо людина виїхала за межі Росії, то на неї вже не поширюється російське законодавство».

За словами Геннадія Москаля, відповідальність у цій ситуації мають нести керівництво Державної прикордонної служби та Міністерства внутрішніх справ.

«Нам мала б надійти інформація, заборонити в'їзд в Україну чи затримати на кордоні, – сказав Радіо Свобода офіцер прес-служби Державної прикордонної служби Андрій Демченко. – А нам доручень ніяких не надходило щодо цієї людини».

Факт перебування у Києві Алімжана Тохтахунова підтвердив Радіо Свобода інший член парламентського комітету з питань боротьби з організованою злочинністю та корупцією, депутат-регіонал Ян Табачник.

«Я знайомий з ним, – каже він. – Те, що він був в Україні, я знаю. На жаль, я хворів тоді і його не бачив. Це було тоді, коли у Кобзона тут був концерт, і він (Тохтахунов) приїхав в Україну».

Табачник також розповів, що свого часу їздив на день народження до Алімжана Тохтахунова.

За словами Геннадія Москаля, він має намір звернутися в штаб-квартиру Інтерполу з приводу того, що Україна порушує взяті на себе зобов'язання. На його думку, ініціювати парламентське розслідування безперспективно, бо представники більшості не дадуть йому ходу.

Табачник підтверджує цю здогадку опозиційного депутата. За його словами, Україна не тільки таку угоду має – вона має достатньо інших угод, які теж не виконує. Щоправда, майже одразу Табачник уточнив: «По нашому Інтерполу його немає в розшуку».

Табачник також не бачить підстав розглядати це питання на засіданні комітету з питань боротьби з організованою злочинністю і корупцією. «Ну, який стосунок ми маємо до прикордонників?» – так він відповів на запитання, чи буде ця ситуація розглядатися на засіданні профільного парламентського комітету.

Тим часом Президент Віктор Янукович нагородив голову Державної прикордонної служби Миколу Литвина орденом Богдана Хмельницького.

Із енкаведистів знімають маски

Анастасія Москвичова, *Радіо Свобода*

Діяльність НКВС проти українського визвольного руху слід визнати злочином проти людства, зазначали експерти в рамках круглого столу з нагоди презентації книги «Окупанти без маски», що відбулася 11 березня в Києві. За їхніми словами, оприлюднені у книзі документи засвідчують порушення енкаведистами як тодішнього радянського, так і міжнародного законодавства.

Актом звинувачення спадкоємців радянського режиму називає книжку «Окупанти без маски» ініціатор видання та упорядник Богдан Горинь. За його словами, оприлюднена у книзі «Довідка про використання спеціальних агентурно-бойових груп з ліквідації підпілля ОУН і його озброєних банд у Західній Україні» підтверджує факт цілеспрямованого нищення носіїв української національної ідеї і є, власне, інструкцією з боротьби проти підпільників.

Документ не взято безпосередньо із архівів КДБ, він один із небагатьох, що вціліли після того, як у дев'яностому році спецслужби намагались знищити усі документи щодо діяльності проти українських повстанців.

Документ частково оприлюднювався в інших виданнях, але сьогодні назріла потреба опублікувати його повністю, зауважив Богдан Горинь. «Ми зараз є свідками якраз такого моменту, коли колесо історії повернуло у бік регресу, – зазначає він. – Ми отримуємо тривожну інформацію про те, що на Донеччині закриваються українські школи, виселяються музеї із Києво-Печерської лаври. І мимовільно ми звертаємося до минулих періодів нашої історії, таких же тривожних».

Вміщена у книзі «Окупанти без маски» інформація підтверджується іншими документами, тому можна говорити про її достовірність, говорить історик Володимир Сергійчук. «Таких документів дуже багато. Якщо ви подивитеся папери саме каральних органів, то вони підтверджуються в історико-правовому плані доповідними прокурора Кошарського», – зауважив він.

Як приклад, історик наводить доповідну записку на ім'я Хрущова «Про факти брутального порушення радянської законності у діяльності так званих спецгруп Міністерства державної безпеки», яку написав прокурор військ Міністерства внутрішніх справ Українського округу, назвавши діяльність проти підпільників такою, що має «відверто бандитський, антирадянський характер».

Винищення українського підпілля – тема, цікава не лише для істориків, але й для юристів, вважає правознавець-міжнародник Володимир Василенко. На його думку, тут треба говорити про злочини радянського режиму загалом, за які хтось повинен відповісти. Володимир Василенко розглядає можливість розпочати правову процедуру визнання діяльності НКВС, спрямованої проти УПА, – злочином проти людства. А злочини проти людства не мають строку давності, наголошує юрист.

«З точки зору права, ті злочини, що скоювали у 20-ті роки…З перевдяганням, скажімо… Це ж ішла війна між державними утвореннями. Перевдягання в чужу форму чужої армії, з погляду Четвертої женевської конвенції 1907 року про закони і звичаї сухопутної війни, – це воєнний злочин. Це не допускає міжнародне право», – наголосив Володимир Василенко.

Київська презентація видання «Окупанти без маски» – вже третя в Україні. До цього її презентували у Львові та Старому Самборі. Пізніше видавці планують провести такі заходи і в інших українських містах, а також викласти текст книжки в інтернет, де її прочитати зможе кожен охочий.

Harper to receive Shevchenko Medal

Cont. from P. 1

"We can never time elections. Speculation is always in the air especially in a minority government. ...It's not that we timed it specifically... we felt that the Prime Minister deserves the medal for what he has done.," he added.

The Shevchenko Medal is the highest form of recognition that can be granted by the Ukrainian Canadian Congress. It recognizes individuals for their outstanding national contribution towards the development of the Ukrainian Canadian community.

In its media release, the UCC states: "Prime Minister Harper and his government have made many contributions to the Ukrainian Canadian community, both at home and abroad, including the passage of An Act to establish a Ukrainian Famine and Genocide ("Holodomor") Memorial Day, making Canada one of the first countries to adopt legislation to recognize the Holodomor of1932-33 as an act of genocide. The establishment by Prime Minister Harper of the "Canadian First World War Internment Recognition Fund" in 2008 was the culmination of many years of effort by our community to recognize the unjust internment of Ukrainian Canadians and others from 1914 - 1920.

"Prime Minister Harper has been an active proponent of democratic reforms in Ukraine as evidenced by his recent trip to Ukraine in October 2010 where he publicly expressed Canada's commitment to human rights, democratic development, and free and fair elections in Ukraine.

"This was preceded by Canada sending 200 election observers to Ukraine for the 2010 Presidential elections. One of the highlights of the Prime Minister's trip to Ukraine was the signing of a Youth Mobility Agreement to facilitate travel and exchanges between Canadian and Ukrainian youth. Prime Minister Harper has also been an active proponent of Ukraine's accession into NATO and in 2009 his government entered into Free Trade negotiations with Ukraine and renewed Ukraine's status as a country of priority for international assistance through CIDA."

Regarding the CMHR issue Grod said: "I think it's politically naive to think that we give awards based on key deliverables. I would say the Prime Minister over the course of the last four years has delivered on a lot of asks that we have had as a community... and on that basis he is deserving of the award."

"I believe that there will be a lot of pressure on the government as a result of the receipt of this medal to actually hear what our issues are with respect to the museum and this is an opportunity for us to get in front of the Prime Minister and for him to understand how significant the museum issue if to our community," he added.

Grod also stated it is important to award leaders when they are still in office, thus able to deliver on issues, as opposed to when they have retired.

Harper will be the third Canadian Prime Minister to receive the Shevchenko medal. The first was the Rt. Hon. John Diefenbaker, who was recognized for his outstanding contributions to the cause of Ukraine and other nations in their struggle for human dignity and liberty, the second Brian Mulroney, under whose administration Canada became the first Western country to recognize independent Ukraine.

In his e-mail, Maryn noted that all three recipients were Conservatives and Liberal Paul Martin should be awarded for sending 500 election observers to Ukraine during the Orange Revolution.

"I look forward to receiving that nomination and I will ensure that it gets the full consideration of the board and if they believe that Paul Martin is deserving of the Shevchenko Medal then I'd be very pleased to bestow that on him as well," said Grod.

Multilingual education "absolutely critical", says Horner

Cont. from P. 1

but will comment on multilingual education.

Kenney has not endorsed any leadership candidate in the current race to date, but backed Ted Morton in the 2006 contest which elected Premier Ed Stelmach.

Former Finance Minister Morton, a financial hawk and social conservative who is said to have caused the rift over the budget that prompted Stelmach to announce his resignation, was the first declared candidate for the leadership.

Other candidates include former Justice Minister Alison Redford, former Health Minister Gary Mar and Battle River-Wainwright MLA Doug Griffiths.

Horner, MLA for Spruce Grove-Sturgeon-St. Albert downplayed media reports of a caucus battle over the budget.

"To say there was a huge caucus uprising is just BS," he said.

"Was there a heated discussion about balancing needs and physical restraints? Absolutely. But you want to have that kind of discussion there. At the end of the day you heard Minister Morton say he supports the budget."

Horner gave Stelmach credit for creating the sustainability fund in 2006 which set aside a cash reserve to provide operating revenue during economic downturns.

This allows the government to provide money for capital projects when prices are competitive, because when the economy improves it will again have to compete with private industry for jobs, he noted.

Horner said he supports the public health system, but added it needs structural changes to provide better access.

"Going the route of private hospitals? I don't see that we need to do that. Number one we don't have the population to support a private industry. We have 3.2 million people. If you're going to have a private and a public than those private guys are going to be looking for some clients. Now are there some private delivery models that we can look at that are different than what we are doing today. Absolutely. Because right now every doctor's office in the province is a private clinic. But it's publicly funded and I think there's a lot of ways that we can improve on that and we've talked a lot about that but we've always ran into these structural issues."

He also rejected the notion of two parallel systems.

"What will happen is you start to pirate some of the staff and the ones that want to work in the private sector are going to pull people in and it just becomes a smudge."

Horner said his vision for Alberta is about unlocking the potential of the province and taking a leadership position in the world.

"Our potential is global in proportion and it's recognized globally so our efforts need to be steadfast in unlocking that potential and unleashing the capacities of Albertans of all ages."

First elected in the 2001 provincial election, Horner became Minister of Agriculture in 2004, and in 2006 was appointed Minister of Advanced Education and Technology. In January, 2010, he was also appointed to the position of Deputy Premier.

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В глибокій скорботі ділимося сумною вісткою з друзями, знайомими, учнями і співвітчизниками, що 22 грудня 2010 року в лікарні міста Ванкувер (Канада) відійшов у вічність Валеріян Дмитрович Ревуцький- видатний український театрознавець і публіцист, почесний член НТШ, дійсний член УВАН, член Асоціації Славістів Канади, заслужений діяч мистецтв України, іноземний член і лауреат премії "Золота медаль" Академії Мистецтв України, Лауреат премій Фонду Тараса Шевченка, м.Канів, Чернеча Гора, та Конгресу Українців Канади.

Протягом багатьох років Валеріян Ревуцький проводив активну педагогічну діяльність в університетах Торонто і Вікторії, а також в Університеті Британської Колумбії; виховав плеяду талановитих молодих науковців. Поряд з цим мала місце надзвичайно плідна наукова діяльність. Валеріян Ревуцький є автором монографій:

• "П'ять великих акторів української сцени", 1955

• "Нескорені березільці: Йосип Гірняк і Олімпія Добровольська", 1985

• "В орбіті світового театру", 1995

• "Віра Левицька: Життя і сцена", 1998

• "По обрію життя: Спогади", 1998

• "Заграва: Кілька слів про театр", 2000

• був співавтором і редактором театральної частини Енциклопедії Українознавства (українською і англійською мовами).

Валеріян Ревуцький науково редагував

• Збірник "Лесь Курбас у театральній діяльності і оцінках сучасників - документи"

• Юрій Шерегій: "Нарис історії українських театрів Закарпатської України до 1945 року". Вступні статті та редакція Василя Маркуся і Валеріяна Ревуцького

• "Ріміні, 1945-1947 рр. Перша українська дивізія Української національної армії у Британському полоні в Італії"-збірник 2, упорядник

Він був автором багаточисленних статей на театральні теми, друкованих у наукових збірниках і пресі, переданих по радіомережах Канади і США. Валеріян Дмитрович виступав з доповідями на багатьох наукових конференціях в Канаді та поза її межами.

Пам'ять про цю величну людину залишиться назавжди з тими, кого щаслива доля звела на життєвому шляху з Валеріяном Ревуцьким.

Невтомному трудівникові на культурній ниві України, залюбленому в її театр, вічная пам'ять.

Скорботні:
Дружина Валентина
Доня Ірина
Зять Олекса Тисяк
Родина в Україні
Друзі і знайомі

Вшанування пам'яті жертв Куренівської катастрофи

(Прес-служба Посольства України в Канаді)—У перші весняні дні цього року українці віддають шану жертвам Куренівської катастрофи – жахливої трагедії, що сталася 50 років тому у місті Києві.

Трагічні події, що отримали назву Куренівська трагедія, відбулися у Києві 13 березня 1961 року, коли потужний селевий потік з Бабиного Яру крізь прорвану дамбу затопив один із столичних мікрорайонів - Куренівку - і викликав численні жертви.

Тривалий час причини та наслідки трагедії замовчувалися радянською владою. І лише після здобуття незалежності України ми відкриваємо цю трагічну сторінку нашої історії, читаємо спогади свідків.

Як вважають фахівці, головною передумовою виникнення аварії стало ухвалення у 1950 році виконкомом Київської міськради рішення заповнити Бабин Яр відходами виробництва Петровських цегляних заводів, розташованих поблизу. Непридатні для цегельного виробництва земляні породи змішувалися з водою й у вигляді пульпи по трубах відводилися у відроги Бабиного Яру. Всього за 10 років у такий спосіб до відрогів Яру було намито понад 4 мільйони кубічних метрів ґрунту. Загальна площа намиву склала близько одного квадратного кілометра. Шар намиву сягав 30 метрів.

Намив виконувався на висоті від 40 до 60 метрів над рівнем великого промислового та житлового району Києва — Куренівки — але замість бетонної дамби було споруджено земляну, яка не відповідала ані проекту, ані нормам безпеки. Пропускна спроможність протиповеневого стоку складала лише 0,5 куб. м за секунду, що було недостатньо для виключення можливості аварії.

11 – 12 березня 1961 року через дамбу почали переливатися струмки води, однак заходів для термінового зміцнення дамби чи евакуації людей з небезпечної зони вжито не було. О 9.20 13 березня дамбу прорвало, і маса рідкої пульпи ринула вниз. Початкова висота валу сягала 14 метрів, а швидкість — 5 метрів за секунду. О 9.30 пульпа дісталася Куренівки та залила площу близько 30 гектарів. В районі вулиці Фрунзе висота валу зменшилась вдвічі. Поступово розріджена пульпа ставала твердою, мов каміння. Вже в такому вигляді висота цієї маси місцями досягла трьох метрів.

Потік перевертав і відносив автомобілі, автобуси, трамваї, валив стовпи електричних мереж, рвав дроти. Один із автобусів зіткнувся з вантажівкою і запалав. Пульпою було практично повністю знищено трамвайне депо імені Красіна, кілька десятків його працівників загинули.

Куренівська катастрофа знищила 22 приватні одноповерхові будинки, 5 двоповерхових, 12 одноповерхових будинків державного фонду, два гуртожитки.

Влада довгий час приховувала і применшувала масштаби та наслідки аварії. Інформація про куренівські події піддавалася жорсткій цензурі, багатьох загиблих ховали на різних кладовищах у Києві та за його межами, вказуючи у документах та в написах на могилах різні дати та причини смерті. Частина тіл так і залишилася не знайденою у товщі затверділої пульпи. У повідомленні урядової комісії про розслідування причин аварії було вказано: "В районі аварії загинуло 145 чоловік". Зараз точну кількість жертв катастрофи встановити практично неможливо. За оцінками київського історика Олександра Анісімова, вона складає 1,5 тис. осіб.

Після катастрофи у відрогах Бабиного Яру ще залишалося понад три мільйони кубічних метрів пульпи. За наказом спеціальної комісії, вода, що зібралася у відрогах через трубовід, яким надходила до Бабиного Яру пульпа, вже у зворотньому напрямку відкачувалась до кар'єрів цегельних заводів, а потім потрапляла до річки Сирець.

У той же час в Яру проектувалися та будувалися нові захисні споруди, зокрема, капітальна бетонна дамба. Частина пульпи, що затопила Куренівку, вже у затверділому стані поверталася самоскидами назад, використовувалася для засипки Яру. Було споруджено нову капітальну дамбу 172 метри завдовжки і 25 метрів заввишки, тобто таку, яку передбачав первісний проект початку 50-х років. На гребені дамби висадили молоді тополі.

Згодом через заповнену частину яру було прокладено дорогу з Сирця на Куренівку (частина нинішньої вулиці Олени Теліги), влаштовано парк.

У березні 2006 року, до 45-ї річниці катастрофи, у парку відпочинку, створеному на місці Бабиного Яру, було відкрито пам'ятник загиблим у вигляді двох кам'яних плит і дзвону між ними. Крім того, біля входу до колишнього трамвайного депо ім. Красіна (нині - Подільське депо) встановлено пам'ятник загиблим працівникам підприємства. У музеї депо є експозиція з фотографіями та іншими матеріалами про Куренівську катастрофу.

Court chief survives no-confidence vote

(Ukrainian Journal)—Vasyl Onopenko, the head of the Supreme Court, the only authority not yet fully controlled by loyalists of President Viktor Yanukovych, survived a no-confidence vote on March 11.

Only 17 judges at the 49-member court voted for the dismissal of Onopenko. The motion was signed by 19 judges a week earlier.

The development is the first serious setback for Yanukovych, who has so far managed over the past 12 months to extend his control to the Cabinet, Parliament, the Constitutional Court and the regional legal system.

"I am happy that the Supreme Court is there. It has always been and it will continue to be," Onopenko said after the vote. "You have seen that the Supreme Court is a healthy organism."

The position of the head of the Supreme Court may become instrumental in the battle for Parliament in October 2012, and perhaps at the next presidential election in March 2015.

It was the Supreme Court that had cancelled in December 2004 the controversial presidential election upholding the allegation that the election had been attempted to be stolen by Yanukovych, then the prime minister.

The court ordered the re-run of the second round of the election at which opposition candidate Viktor Yushchenko had defeated Yanukovych to become the president in January 2005 through February 2010.

After the election of Yanukovych to the presidency in February 2010 all bodies of the government and legal authorities in Ukraine had been reshuffled to appoint Yanukovych loyalists.

The motion to dismiss Onopenko came a week after reports indicated that Yanukovych had been seeking to mount an attack against the head of the Supreme Court.

Some judges of the court have been apparently invited to the presidential administration where they had been asked to move against Onopenko, a source at the court told Kommersant newspaper.

Andriy Portnov, a deputy chief of staff at the Yanukovych administration and the official who is in charge of drafting legislation to reform the legal system, denied any pressure on the judges.

Opposition lawmakers said Yanukovych has been seeking to replace Onopenko with a more loyal figure — most likely with Serhiy Kivalov — to the post.

Onopenko slammed at those who had secretly applied the pressure on the judges.

"Whoever is behind the curtain, I believe this is unacceptable to put any kind of pressure on the Supreme Court," Onopenko said.

McCain, Martens urge travel OK for Yulia

(Ukrainian Journal)—US Senator John McCain and European People's Party President Wilfried Martens jointly urged the Ukrainian authorities to let former Prime Minister Yulia Tymoshenko leave the country for a political meeting in Brussels.

"We jointly call on the Ukrainian authorities to allow Yulia Tymoshenko to attend the EPP (European People's Party) Summit in Brussels on March 24, 2011," they said in a joint statement on March 7.

The statement came days after US Vice President Joe Biden, in a phone call with President Viktor Yanukovych, voiced concerns over "selective prosecution" of opposition politicians and warned against legislation that may undermine foreign investment.

Tymoshenko, the leader of the largest opposition party in Ukraine, was twice denied by the authorities the right to visit Brussels after prosecutors imposed travel restrictions on her.

But on March 1, however, the prosecutors suddenly allowed Tymoshenko to visit her mother in Dnipropetrovsk on March 8, potentially indicating that international travel restrictions may also be eased.

Tymoshenko, who lost the presidential election to Yanukovych in February 2010, is charged with abuse of power while prime minister in 2009. In particular, the authorities accuse her of diverting some environmental funds towards payment of pensions in 2009, while other charges allege her government had ordered the purchase of ill-equipped ambulances.

Tymoshenko denied the charges as politically motivated. Two ministers from her government have been arrested on similar charges and now awaiting court rulings, while one minister has been granted an asylum in the Czech Republic amid concerns the authorities have been resorting to political persecution.

McCain and Martens echoed those concerns in the statement.

"We also call on the authorities to reconsider what could be viewed as selective prosecution of members of the opposition in Ukraine," they said.

Tymoshenko was invited to join a summit of the European People's Party in Brussels on March 23-24, during which she will be able to meet a number of European Union leaders.

The pressure on Tymoshenko intensified late last year after she had repeatedly traveled to Brussels to criticize Yanukovych on international arena.

After one such trip last year, an anonymous caller phoned Tymoshenko and told her that she will "cough up blood" unless she stops criticizing Yanukovych internationally.

A criminal investigation was opened shortly afterwards, and her travel restrictions had been imposed.

Ukrainian dissident Ivan Hel dies

(RISU)—Ivan Hel passed away March 16 at the age of 74. Hel was a Ukrainian human rights activist and head of the Committee to Protect the Rights of the Ukrainian Catholic Church, which "legalized" the church that had been banned in the Soviet Union.

Hel was born July 17, 1937, in the village Klitsko (Lviv region). In Soviet times, he was repeatedly convicted of so-called anti-Soviet agitation and propaganda. He spent 16 years in prison and 5 years in exile.

During perestroika, in early 1987, Hel returned to Ukraine and became a member of the editorial board of revived magazine Ukrainian Herald.

In late 1987 Ivan Hel headed the Committee to Protect the Rights of the Ukrainian Catholic Church, which sought legal ways to official register the Ukrainian Greek Catholic Church, which had been underground for 40 years. The most famous events in the campaign for the legalization of the Ukrainian Greek Catholic Church took place Sept. 17, 1989, in Lviv, which gathered more than 300,000 people and the five-month hunger strike by clergy and faithful in Moscow on the Arbat.

After the Soviet Union collapsed, Ivan Hel was an active politician. In 2009 President Viktor Yushchenko awarded him with the Order of Liberty "for significant contribution to the revival of the Ukrainian Greek Catholic Church."

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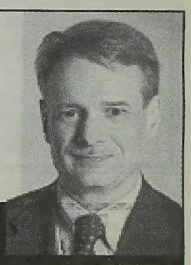

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Podolanka II 12 Days	July 01-12 $2550	L'viv, Krakow and Budapest *plus:* Wieliczka Salt Mines, Auschwitz, Szentandre Artisan Village
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Two Capitals III 9 days	Jul 27 - Aug 4 $1600	Kyiv and L'viv
Mini Ukraine III 12 Days	Jul 27 – Aug 07 $2500	Kyiv, L'viv, Yaremche, Kamianets Podilsky *plus:* Iv. Frankivsk, Bukovel, Kolomyia, Chernivtsi, Zarvanytsia
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Podolanka III 12 Days	Sep 16 - 27 $2550	L'viv, Krakow and Budapest *plus:* Wieliczka Salt Mines, Auschwitz, Szentandre Artisan Village
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Make your candidates aware of our issues

The Ukrainian Canadian Congress has postponed the Tribute dinner at which Prime Minster Stephen Harper will be presented with a Shevchenko Medal.

"Given the uncertainty around whether there will be a confidence motion in the House of Commons during the Opposition Day which has been scheduled for March 25, 2011 or the potential timing of a federal election, it was decided that the tribute to Prime Minister Harper would be postponed," stated UCC National President Paul Grod. "We do not want to politicize the good work done by the Prime Minister and the reason he is a recipient of the Shevchenko medal."

The initial March 25 date sparked some controversy over the timing of the event. Another bone of contention is the unresolved issue of the Canadian Museum of Human Rights. While the timing issue may have been defused, depending upon when the actual date of the Tribute dinner falls, the CMHR issue needs to be addressed.

The Ukrainian Canadian Community want a prominent and permanent display place for both the Holodomor and Canada's First National Internment Operations, which the current plans for the museum does not include.

Grod contends that the ceremony will give the UCC the opportunity to present their concerns one on one with Harper and this could have positive results. There is some merit to that argument. The CMHR is facing some deep cuts and cutting operational funding is one of the suggestions the UCC is bringing forward to the government. Another is reconstituting the board. A positive move in that direction came March 17, as this issue of Ukrainian News was going to press, with the appointment of Dr. Lindy Ledohowski to the Board of Trustees of the CMHR. She will certainly be a most articulate spokesperson for our community's concerns. But she is just one of many members of the Board. Whether she will be able to change the current position of the board and whether there will be more appointments that will give the Board a more inclusive character remains to be seen. Nevertheless we must applaud her appointment as a step in the right direction and encourage further such moves.

One point Grod made is his interview with this paper is that the UCC is made up of volunteers who sacrifice personal time money and even careers for the community and instead of sitting back and criticizing them, members of the community should be donating both time and money and getting involved. That is very true. We would like to add that one way you can support the UCC on the CMHR issue that won't cost you anything and takes very little time, is to mail those postcards inserted into this issue to your MP.

Also, if there is an election, get involved and let all the candidates hear about our positions. Several Conservatives, including all the members of the Canada-Ukraine Parliamentary Friendship Group, have come out publicly in favour of our positions on the CMHR. As well, 30 Liberals have signed a statement to that effect. Etobicoke Centre MP Borys Wrzesnewskyj says there are even more to come. Therefore, we have support on both sides of the House.

Keep in mind that when you vote in a general election, you are not voting for the Prime Minister, unless you happen to live in one the party leaders' constituencies. You are voting for your own local representative and you should make your local candidates aware of our concerns and press them to address our issues. We should be electing those representatives who will best serve our community's interests regardless of their political affiliation.

They will not sing

By Mykola Riabchuk

Commentary

All talk about "order," "stability," and the "fight against corruption" sound hypocritical. And all attempts at "reforms" – without the rule of law – are futile.

During my schooldays, I heard an interesting account of the etymology of the word "shantrapa", broadly used in Soviet slang to define petty thugs or, as a dictionary more politely suggests, "worthless persons." The word had arguably come from the French ne chantera pas, meaning will not sing. It referred to actors who lacked a singing voice and were used in operas as mere figureheads – just to give the appearance of a huge chorus on the stage. In actuality, one dictionary claims, the word originated from the Czech šantrok, šantroch ("liar") and old German santrocke ("fraud").

Whatever the truth, the word has regained broad currency in Ukraine within the past year, referring both to the ruling elite and to the habits they reintroduce and reinforce at all levels of societal life. One of the notable luminaries who deployed the term recently was Taras Chornovil, a defector from the Orange camp and ardent supporter of Viktor Yanukovych during the Orange Revolution. Some time ago, he left the Party of Regions after a serious disagreement with Yanukovych's personnel policy but he still remains a member of the pro-government majority in the parliament and, in his own words, "support[s] the government and tr[ies], as far as possible, to avoid fighting with the president." In sum, he is neither a clear-cut loyalist nor a member of the opposition. This might be a good position for rather impartial observations of political shenanigans, especially if combined with insider knowledge of both camps.

"Yanukovych," Chornovil says, "gave shantrapa a free hand. Even under Yushchenko, shantrapa did not behave so defiantly; there was someone who supervised them… There was no control from the top, but at least at the middle level, there were some people authorized by Yushchenko who took care of something, more or less. And, from time to time, they attacked shantrapa, keeping them at bay. Now it's gone. And shantrapa reigns unchecked. First, they pillage en masse, and second, they shut up all opponents… Here we have an absolute lawlessness (bespredel) at the level of local authorities, law-enforcement agencies, and so on".

The phenomenon is barely new. Long ago, it was observed in Russia where critics of Putin's regime argued that he created an atmosphere of lawlessness and brutality, so familiar and convenient for the post-Soviet elite that he did not necessarily need to commission the murder of Politkovskaya, or Estemirova, or other human rights activists. He just signaled to society that revolutionary expediency, not the law, reigned supreme, and that all the enemies of the regime should be cooled off in "cesspools." This was a clear message to all the thugs both inside and outside the government that they had a free hand to decide arbitrarily who was the enemy and when and how they should be cooled off.

This is exactly what is happening now in Ukraine. All the shantrapa who were somewhat unnerved by the revolution and had kept a rather low profile under Yushchenko's feckless rule, are now taking revenge, encouraged by Yanukovych's comeback and his unscrupulous words and deeds. Try to imagine how post-Soviet officials (rather Soviet, than post-) feel when they see that corruption is tolerated at the top and only political disloyalty causes a problem; or when they hear the president warning opposition mayors that he will (literally) tear off their legs and screw off their heads. This is a clear signal to all the loyalist bureaucrats, police officers, judges and prosecutors, to all the unreformed host of homo sovieticus to tear and screw off whatever they wish and whoever they feel appropriate.

And they do. The number of violent crimes against journalists within the past year increased exponentially; the number of cases of tortures and obscure deaths in custody, recorded by the reputable Kharkiv Human Rights Group, doubled and tripled; the number of illegal searches, arrests, detentions and politically motivated interrogations exceeded everything that had happened within the previous two decades.

What kind of restraints can officials feel after they see how thugs from the ruling party (real thugs placed on the list of the Party of Regions as former drivers and body-guards of oligarchs) savagely beat opposition MPs (many of which were hospitalized with broken limbs)? What conclusion would a policeman make after listening to the description of the incident in the parliament made by one of the Regions' bosses Mykhaylo Chechetov: "There was no beating. Probably they broke their own heads against the wall and now try to accuse us"

It is no surprise that the number of detainees in Ukrainian prisons (not necessarily political inmates) who "beat and injure themselves," and commit very unusual "suicides" has dramatically increased since Yanukovych's installment. Some reports from police precincts sound like black humor: in Kharkiv, the Loziv district police department acquired some fame when within a week of their arrest, two detainees fell from the fourth floor window during interrogation, allegedly committing suicide – even though in both cases the relatives claim the victims were severely beaten beforehand.

Yanukovych's spin-doctors, international lobbyists, and Ukrainian diplomats work hard to whitewash his image and to downplay the systemic and escalating character of abuses of power under his presidency. One of them, smartly enough, has recognized recently that "the corruption here is a precondition of doing business," "the judiciary in Ukraine is a disaster," "the mentality of the SBU is not helpful," and so forth. Nonetheless, he assured readers, Ukraine is headed in the right direction, and "most of the embarrassing, stupid and somewhat cruel actions are random, there is no pattern," and, perhaps most encouraging, "people in Yanukovych's administration aren't really bad people. Maybe they lack confidence, maybe they are poorly educated, and a bit provincial, without good knowledge of the laws and the Constitution. But they are not stone-cold killers and these are not the kind of people that try to establish an authoritarian state"

One may recollect here a similar revelation of George W. Bush who claimed some time ago to have discovered a "true democrat," having gazed into the deep, snake-like eyes of Vladimir Putin. But we will not engage in reminiscences about the past. We just note that the features observed above in Yanukovych's administration by his American lobbyist are exactly what political shantrapa is about. And the low-level shantrapa sense the mood and respond accordingly. If the president can nominate an outspoken Ukrainophobe, Dmytro Tabachnyk, as minister of education, one should not be surprised when a traffic policeman somewhere in Odesa responds to a citizen who approaches him in Ukrainian that he doesn't speak that "cow language" – an insult to a Ukrainian, that can be compared to calling someone in the U.S. the N-word.

Like masters, like servants.

Whatever the PR-specialists might claim about the "random" character of multiple abuses of power in Ukraine, the sheer statistics collected by human rights NGOs, both domestic and international, demonstrate the opposite: they are ubiquitous, definitely systemic, and growing dramatically in number and scope since Yanukovych assumed power. In other words, this is not a deviation, but rather is typical of the sort of lawless, authoritarian "normality" that is being introduced in Ukraine.

In such a context, all talk about "order," "stability," and the "fight against corruption" sound hypocritical. And all attempts at "reforms" – without the rule of law – are futile.

Maybe Yanukovych's lobbyists are right: he is not a bad man, and his associates are not "stone-cold killers," as Bruce Jackson puts it, and some of them perhaps are even smart enough to "be running a software company in Washington state." I don't know. I know, for sure, however, that "they will not sing.

Holodomor deserves permanent exhibit

By Peter Goldring,
Member of Parliament, Edmonton East

The Canadian Museum for Human Rights (CMHR) has been the subject of controversy since its first conception due to its apparent focus more on one specific historical tragedy over all others.

On April 23, 1999 I spoke in the House of Commons about the Holodomor, the planned famine inflicted on Ukraine by Soviet dictator Joseph Stalin in 1932-33. I said "Civilization's failure must be put on public display so that we can all see the dark side of humanity and hopefully learn."

We have a duty to remember, to speak out when we become aware of genocidal acts, and the Holodomor has been mostly misunderstood and ignored for far too long. In the terrible days of 1932-33, when millions of Ukrainians were dying, politicians from countries around the world chose not to speak. They were silent while millions suffered and perished.

We must speak out, at every opportunity.

In July 2008, representing Canada, I was in Kazakhstan, a former Soviet Union country, attending the annual Parliamentary Assembly of the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe (OSCE), a 56-country group.

A delegate from Ukraine had introduced a resolution to recognize the Holodomor as genocide, something the Parliament of Canada had already done.

I was informed that Russia, through Turkey and acting with other countries, was working to have the resolution watered down – to either have the Holodomor declared an act of nature, a simple natural famine, or have the resolution defeated completely.

I asked Member of Parliament Oleh Bilorus, head of Ukraine's OSCE delegation, if he wanted some help in dealing with the resolution.

At the outset of the debate in a Committee meeting, a delegate from France declared "We are politicians, we are not historians! Why should we know of such things?" It apparently seemed to him that evidence from the past was not relevant to today's issues.

In the Committee session I addressed the French delegation first. I reminded them that a knowledge of history should be an essential for all politicians.

Then I challenged the Russian and Turkish delegations, reminding them, and all the Assembly, this genocide was not caused by an act of nature, a drought, nor pestilence. This Holodomor, this "murder by starvation of some eight million persons," this genocide was by the hand of one man – Joseph Stalin, just as the Holocaust murder of some eight million persons was by the hand of one man, Adolf Hitler.

In my visits to Ukraine I have found that the land there is not unlike the land of northern Alberta, which explains why so many Ukrainian immigrants to Canada have settled there. The rich, fertile soil must have reminded them of their homeland. On such rich land, crops do not fail so catastrophically as to cause starvation in such unimaginable numbers. To even suggest that the famine of 1932-33 was caused by an act of nature is wrong. Yet this misunderstanding was repeated in a Montreal newspaper just two years ago.

The OSCE Committee agreed with my comments, and the resolution passed, sent to the full Assembly in its original form.

But in the final plenary session of the full Assembly, Russia again mounted a strong attack on the resolution. The United States delegates had left the Assembly early in order to return home for their Independence Day celebrations, and the Russians felt that, with the Americans gone, they would have enough support.

Again I spoke forcefully, this time before the full Assembly, and in great detail in support of Ukraine and historical truth. After a heated debate the Assembly passed the resolution, to the great pleasure of the Ukrainian delegation.

This attempt to re-write the historical record took place in a far corner of our earth. Russia could have had their way and could have interpreted the Holodomor the way they wished. They had the advantage – and the support of the home country, Kazakhstan. However on this occasion at least the truth prevailed.

When the CMHR was first planned, Ukrainian Canadians were led to believe there would be a permanent exhibit about the Holodomor a horrific time which saw some eight million people die. But apparently plans changed and now there will only be two human rights tragedies with their own permanent display.

Certainly we should not be somehow ranking examples of man's inhumanity to man. The issue is not eight million dead Jews and others in the Holocaust of World War II, as many as eight million during the Holodomor or the 1.5 million dead in the "killing fields" of Pol Pot's Cambodia or the million killed in the Rwandan genocide.

The Holodomor was a genocide on the size, scale and relative duration of the Holocaust. It does make sense that this atrocity that impacted so many Canadians (1.2 million of whom are of Ukrainian ancestry, my wife included) be on permanent display at the CMHR – particularly due to the lack of knowledge of this genocide, even by politicians.

For more than 10 years I have been working to educate Canadians of the importance of remembering the Holodomor. I spoke in the House of Commons on the topic on April 23, 1999, November 24, 2005, November 23, 2006, November 28, 2007, May 27, 2008, and November 26, 2009. On November 30, 2010, for example, I rose in the House of Commons to say:

We remember today the 8 million who perished in Ukraine's Holodomor, brought on by Stalin in the 1930's.

The bitter irony for Ukrainians was that they were murdered by starvation in a land so bountiful that it's called the 'Breadbasket of Europe'.

Shamefully, as millions perished in Ukraine, Western nations were silent and some unconscionably even purchased from the Soviets crops that were stolen from Ukraine's starving farmers.

The importance of speaking about and remembering the truth of the Holodomor, of the Genocide continues here today.

If we do not speak up to support historical truths of mankind's failings, the dark side of humanity, in Canada and around the world, we risk to repeat, and the former Soviet Union revisionist historians will educate the world with their version of the truth.

We remember today and for all time the Holodomor, the Genocide in Ukraine.

The evil that was the Holodomor is as an example of man's depravity that must be recognized. Too often our world has repeated the mistakes of history, as politicians and leaders have failed to learn from history.

If anything, the importance of a major display is greater, given that even French politicians don't know of the issue of the Holodomor, of the genocide in Ukraine. The information on the Holodomor has never had the widespread public awareness of that of the Holocaust due to it happening behind the Iron Curtain of the Soviet Union and being suppressed by Russia to this day, yet it has nearly identical significance. It is up to all of us to properly portray this genocide that we call can learn to do better for mankind.

Those involved in the Canadian Museum for Human Rights need to revisit the issue and give the Holodomor the permanent exhibit of equal significance to the Holocaust exhibit in order for the world to learn. To do otherwise risks having those that do not remember, repeat history's crimes, or for the world to accept the false history propagated by former Soviet Union historians.

Prime Minister's deserved award could be undermined by CMHR issue

By Oksana Bashuk Hepburn

The Ukrainian Canadian Congress is giving an award March 25 to Prime Minister Harper in recognition for contributions to Canada, in particular, for his stance on human rights. It is most unfortunate that a government agency devoted to these quintessential Canadian values is on its way to messing up Canada's reputation as a champion of rights.

Most would agree that Canada's strong human rights record has made it a global leader. During his recent visit to Ukraine, Harper's performance enhanced this reputation. Visiting there last fall, he took care to demonstrate Canada's high regard for individual rights and freedoms, no mere gesture as, unfortunately, under the watch of President Victor Yanukovych, Ukraine has been experiencing Russia-like recidivism. Arrests, violence against — even questionable deaths — journalists, a trend towards religious exclusivity for Moscow's orthodoxy and, in particular, the incarceration of political opposition leaders tell a worrisome story.

The violations were not lost on Canada. To stress our perspective on such matters, Harper visited Lonsky Prison, the site of a national archives and museum to Ukraine's resistance to both Nazi and Soviet occupations during WWII: weeks earlier its director has been persecuted in a back-to-the-USSR manner. Then the Prime Minister met with university students whose right to free assembly had been threatened. Reactions at home and abroad were most favourable; many considered the PM's performance prize-worthy.

Of particular significance was Harper's visit to the Holodomor monument dedicated to some ten million victims of the artificial famine ordered by Kremlin. Most Canadians know about the evil perpetrated by the Nazis few, however, are aware of the genocide organized by leaders of the Communist Party, in particular Joseph Stalin and Lazar Kaganovich, to starve the autochthon population and resettle the land with non-Ukrainians supporters of the Communist regime.

The genocide had been suppressed for decades although scholars like Robert Conquest and more recently Timothy Snyder's Bloodlands, Europe Between Hitler and Stalin provide a most revealing account. The tragedy begs for global recognition and the historic and ongoing dangers of this, indeed any, perverted ideology. In 2008, the Harper government recognized Holodomor as a genocide "a historic wrong ignored by the West", as stated by the sponsor of the legislation, MP James Bezan. Therefore it did not surprise that the Prime Minister underscored Canada's official position by visiting the monument in Kyiv.

So far so good but now things get unpleasant.

Contrary to Parliament's intent, the Canadian Museum of Human Rights, a government body devoted to the promotion and education of human rights, decided to treat the Ukrainian genocide differently. Museum documents indicate recidivism and whitewashing. For example, only a single photo— on its electronic display— will acknowledge this monstrous crime. More space may be allocated on a rotational basis: perhaps once in a decade? The Nazi genocide, on the other hand, has a dedicated and permanent exhibit exclusively to itself.

The CMHR, a Canadian Crown Corporation reporting to the Minister of Heritage, has a mandate "…to enhance the public's understanding of human rights, to promote respect for others and to encourage reflection." Its supporting material is praiseworthy in its promise to will deal with "questions of conscience"; focusing on "the right to participate"; and working to ensure its 'branding' works towards achieving "a world in which everyone is respected and valued". But such words become annoying propaganda when measured against the Museum's current approach: diminishing the importance of one of history's greatest evils.

The Ukrainian community is aghast that such blatant discrimination is possible in fair-minded Canada, particularly in an institution devoted to rooting out injustice and inequality. This is a serious faux pas to human rights watchers; a one-sided treatment sullying the Museum's reputation even before it opens. As things stand, the Museum is a collaborator in covering up a Communist regime's crime while selectively exposing that of the Nazis. It is at best an insult and at worst a violation of Canadian rights.

And another insult. The Museum resides in Winnipeg, a city where about one-in-four citizens come from Ukrainian roots first put down here after arriving in Canada exactly 120 years ago this year.

One can only hope that the Museum's decision-makers will come to their senses and cancel any contracts furthering this error of judgement. Otherwise any well-intended award for the Prime Minister falls under a pall. Even worse, the Museum undermines Canada's reputation as a global human rights leader in a world much in need of such a beacon.

Oksana Bashuk Hepburn was a Director of Communications at the Canadian Human Rights Commission

Russian Orthodox Church supports Gaddafi

(RISU)—Representatives of the Russian Orthodox Church supported and approved the actions of Muammar Gaddafi. Protopriest Vsevolod Chaplin, who is known for his scandalous initiatives, stated that the authorities have a right to suppress mutinies by force. Tsn.ua reports that the minister noted that mutinies should be distinguished from people's uprisings and suggested that this function is to be fulfilled by secret services and intellectual elite.

In this way, Chaplin commented on statements of one of the ideologists of the pro-Kremlin movement, head of its Orthodox branch, Borys Yakymenko, who supported the cruel actions of Gaddafi with respect to the rebelled Libyans.

"A state can use force in certain situations, for instance, in suppressing mutinies — I mean mutinies, not people's uprisings — or conspiracies, or attempts to subdue people against their will. When such things happen, the authorities, with support from society, should return force for force," stated the protopriest.

Chaplin explained that the line between a mutiny and people's uprising should be defined individually in each situation. According to ROC spokesman, a people's uprising is "a reflection of deep contradictions in the life of the society," when the authorities do not fulfill their responsibilities and people cannot live under them anymore. Mutineers or plotters act not only against the will of the authorities but also against the will of the people, and, in that situation, "society with the help of the authorities must be able to defend itself." "If they cannot defend themselves, woe to them," stated the protopriest.

In answer to the question how to define if people in the streets are participants of people's uprising or mutineers, the protopriest responded that " for that, there are public and state institutions: police, secret services and the part of the intellectual elite which is able to unmask a plot or mutiny and call the spade the spade."

The protopriest noted that people's uprising took place in the world many times. One of the vivid examples is "what has recently happened in Egypt." According to Chaplin, a different situation was in Russia in 1917.

Лебедина пісня хору «Дніпро» лунає в Оттаві

Леся Спольська

Концертне турне Едмонтонського хору «Дніпро» до Оттави розпочалось концертом «Три століття української класичної музики», який відбувся 20 лютого. Виступи цього колективу у столиці є особливо пам'ятними, оскільки вони є останніми виступами хору під диригентурою маестро Марія Дитиняк.

Хор «Дніпро» був заснований у 1953 році як чоловічий хор, який згодом перетворився у мішаний хор у 1973 році. Співпраця маестро Марії Дитиняк із «Дніпро» охоплює понад три десятиліття. Під її диригентською паличкою хор брав участь у постановці двох повнометражних опер, виступав у концертах разом із Едмонтонським симфонічним оркестром, пропагував український хоровий спів не лише у власній провінції, але також у Торонтонських концертних залах таких як Рой Томсон, гаслолював в Австралії, Філіпінах та інших країнах, записав кілька компакт-дисків. Хор «Дніпро» відзначається надзвичайно широким репертуаром творів сакральної та класичної української хорової музики. Одна із місій хору є не лише донести до слухача надбання з попередніх століть, але й познайомити шанувальників хорового співу із новими творами сучасних українських композиторів. Деякі з цих творів, що прозвучали на концерті були власне і написані спеціально для хору «Дніпро».

ФОТО — ОЛЕНА ЗАХАРОВА, ПРЕС-СЛУЖБА ПОСОЛЬСТВА УКРАЇНУ В КАНАДІ

Посол України в Канаді Ігор Осташ із членаму хору «Дніпро» у Ротонді Будинку Парламанту Канади.

У концерті «Три століття української класичної музики» прозвучали перлини українського духовного, класичного та народного хорового співу XVIII-XX століть. Концерт розпочався піснею «Дніпро реве» (муз. Д. Січинського, сл. В. Чайченка), яка дуже влучно віддзеркалила назву хору. Перша частина концерту була присвячена духовному та класичному хоровому мистетцтву XVIII –XIX століть, де виконувались твори таких славних українських шедеврів як Бортнянський, Березовський, Ведель. У творах цих композиторів відчувається замітний вплив Західно-Європейських музичних традицій, які дуже вдало поєднані із ранньо-класичним та козацьким стилем бароко. Власне, виконануючи «Достойно єсть» А. Веделя, що звучало славетно, величаво та гідно, хор зумів широким діапазоном голосів відтворити і передати тонкощі та нюанси цього стилю. Саме це багатоголосся , що є притаманне українській духовній музиці підносить величність та урочистість співу, про що і засвідчив хор, виконуючи «Прийдіте, поклонімся» М. Березовського. Романтичний період кінця XIX та початку XXстоліття становить нову епоху в історії розвитку класичного хорового мистецтва. Цей період був представлений такими творами як «Ой ходить сон коло вікон» в обробці О. Кошиця, «Не стій вербо, над водою» в обробці М. Леонтовича та іншими. Романс «Вечірня пісня» (муз. К Стеценка, сл. В Самійленка) полонив слухачів м'якою задушевністю та теплотою виконання. Українська жартівлива народна пісня «Ти до мене не ходи» (обр. А. Кос-Анатольськьго) у виконанні ансамбдю «Дніпрова хвиля», що є теж частиною хору, викликала усмішку на обличчях присутніх. І це не лише завдяки відмінній гармонії жіночих голосів, але й чудовому артистичному виконанню. Виконання народних пісень доповнювалось і відповідним стилем одягу – українська вишиванка.

Друга частина концерту була присвячена творам сучасних українських композиторів і, на відміну від першої частини , хористи були одягнені у класичний сучасний хоровий стрій. Чоловічий ансамбль хору «Дніпро» виконав буковинську козацьку пісню «Гаєм, гаєм зелененьким» (обр. А.Кушніренка) з фортепіанним супроводом Ірини Тарнавської, а у виконанні жіночого ансамблю хору прозвучала веснянка «Травень» з кантати «Весна» (муз. Л. Дичко, сл. Є. Авдієнка). Ансамбль «Дніпрва хвиля» виконав всім добре відому пісню «Ласкаво просимо» на слова і музику славного українського композитора Володимира Івасюка. Особливо важливо відзначити виконання третьої та четвертої частини з Ораторії «Святий Дніпро» (муз. В, Кікта, сл. С. Майданської), яка власне була написана до 40-ліття хору. Відмінне хорове та сольове виконання (солістка О. Федеркевич) мимоволі перенесли уяву слухачів на на берег сивого і старого Дніпра, де понад тисячоліття назад князь Володимир вийшов на береги ріки і де «зійшлося людей без ліку», щоб прийняти хрещення та «пізнати себе у Божім слові». Потужним кульмінаційним моментом концерту була дума «Вмирала річка» на муз. В. Мужчіля і слова Т. Шаповаленко. Ця дума до глибини душі зворушила всіх присутніх і яскраво відобразила неперевершені виконавські можливості цього колективу, де разом із солістами І. Федеркевич, Л. Чумер та С. Мельниченком, хор зумів відтворити і шум вітру, і поступове затихання річки, і відчай чайок, що били себе в груди, і останні зітхання річки. Величезний успіх цього концерту завдячується хористам, диригентці Марії Дитиняк, Мирославі Загарії, під диригентурою якої прозвучало декілька творів, фортепіанноміу супроводі І. Тарнавської, солістам С. Романюк, І. Федеркевич, Л. Чумер, Л. Пастушенкаові та іншим. Концерт закінчився оваціями та бурхливими аплодисментами присутніх, а діти з української громади вручили маестро Марії Дитиняк квіти.

Лебедина пісня хору «Дніпро» знайшла новий успіх У Ротонді Будинку Парламанту Канади, де наступного дня хор виступав із концертною програмою. Серед присутніх був посол України в Канаді Ігор Осташ, який привітав колектив хору «Дніпро». Надзвичайна майстерність , професійність виконання, різноманітний та багатий репертуар Едмонтонського хору «Дніпро» надовго запам'ятаються Оттавчанам.

Above: St. Matthew Choir performs. Below: The Petting Zoo is always a popular attraction.

Over 1500 attend Yarmarok

(UkrNews)—Over 1500 people attended the Verkhovyna Ukrainian Song & Dance Ensemble's Yarmarok 2011 fundraising bazaar, held at the Ukrainian Youth Unity Complex in Edmonton, March 5-6, according to initial estimates.

Exact figures won't be known until March 25.

"It's a great exposure for Ukrainian culture. We have numerous performances Saturday and Sunday, we have bake sales where people can purchase baked Ukrainian goods which they may have never have had, a great penny carnival for the kids, just to have fun and the craft sales which is a great exposure for lots of different exhibitors to sell their products. Good combination, lots of things," said Coordinator Oksana Iwaszko.

The carnival like affair is held every two years to raise funds for the ensemble which consistys of both the Verkhovyna Choir and the Dunai Dancers.

It's a fun family-oriented event which always attracts a wide range of visitors with its many features. Along with those mentioned by Iwaszko, the Yarmarok also has a petting zoo and food sales.

This year's performers included: the Verkhovyna Ensemble with excerpts from "The Letter", the Radway Ukrainian Dancing Club, the Edmonton School of Ukrainian Dance, Mitchell Palahniuk, the Verkhovyna School of Ukrainian Dance, Alberta Zirka Ukrainian Performers, St. Matthew Choir, Camrose Veselka Ukrainian Dancers, Sopilka School of Ukrainian Dance, Ardrossan Vatran Ukrainian Dancers, Dance Alberta, Thorhild Ukrainian Dance Club and St. Andrew's Veernest Ukrainian Dancers.

Correction

In the article "Audience enraptured by Stepovyi premiere" and accompanying caption to the photograph, the names Joachim Turner and Elizabeth Turner should have read Joachim Segger and Elizabeth Turnbull. Ukrainian News apologizes for the error and any inconvenience it may have caused.

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Easter Sunday Brunch
Sunday, April 24, 2011
Grand Ballroom, Conference Centre
10:00 am - 2:00 pm
Reservations: 780.453.6504

Royal Coach Dining Room
10:00 am - 2:00 pm
Easter Dinner Buffet
5:00 - 8:30 pm
Reservations: 780.453.6508

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Anticipated Outcomes

- To educate the public, teachers, consultants, and curriculum- and teacher-developers about the genocidal starvation of millions of Ukrainian peasants in 1932-1933
- To develop instructional materials (lesson plans, learning activities, print and audio-visual resources) on the genocidal Holodomor for the Alberta Social Studies Program of Studies
- To empower teachers with meaningful instructional approaches for covering the Holodomor topic
- To promote further education about the Holodomor

Scope

Based on newly released Soviet documents and KGB archives, the workshop will trace historical events and illustrate how the Holodomor that claimed millions of lives of Ukrainians was organized and covered up. The workshop will consist of the following components:

- background information on the Holodomor
- instructional materials (lesson plans, learning activities, audio-visual resources)
- instructional strategies based on the inquiry method that facilitate a better understanding of the topic.

REGISTRATION FORM FOR TEACHERS

Name _____

Address _____

Subject taught _____ Grades taught _____

Will attend: ☐ Day 1 (am) ☐ Day 1 (pm) ☐ Day 2 (am) ☐ Day 2 (pm)

☐ I would like to receive a FREE kit of learning materials about the Holodomor.

If you are interested in developing materials for Alberta high school social studies students, please send in your registration and provide a writing sample as well as contact information such as telephone or e-mail.

Please send registrations to:
Ukrainian Language Education Centre (ULEC)
430 Pembina Hall, University of Alberta, T6G 2H8
email: ulec@ualberta.ca phone: (780) 492-2904 fax: (780) 492-4967

Workshop Program

The Genocidal Holodomor Ukraine — 1932-1933

Saturday April 9 and Sunday April 10, 2011
St. Anthony Meeting Centre
10425 84 Ave, Edmonton, AB T6E 2H3

Sponsored by the National Holodomor Education Committee Alberta Branch

Intended for: *junior high and high school teachers, consultants, teacher-developers, public*

Workshop Presenters

Presenter: **Valentina Kuryliw**
History and Social Studies Educator and Department Head in Toronto Schools with over 40 years of teaching experience
Chair of the National Holodomor Education Committee UCC

Presenter: **Dr. Bohdan Klid**
Historian, Assistant Director Canadian Institute of Ukrainian Studies University of Alberta
Co-editor of the forthcoming *Holodomor Reader*

Палестинського біженця вивезли з України

Євген Солонина, *Радіо Свобода*

Палестинського інженера ув'язнили в Ізраїлі того ж дня, коли він зник в Україні, 19 лютого, заявила 16 березня Радіо Свобода ізраїльська правозахисниця. Українські ж експерти припускають, що Дірара Абу-Сісі доправили до Ізраїлю приватним літаком без погодження з українською стороною. Українські силовики, дипломати та посольство Ізраїлю від коментарів відмовляються. У самому Ізраїлі діє судова заборона на поширення інформації про палестинця.

Палестинського інженера, директора головної електростанції у Смузі Гази, який зник 19 лютого з потягу «Харків – Київ», досі розшукує українська міліція. Проте ані це відомство, ані СБУ та МЗС не коментують повідомлення його близьких про те, що Дірар Абу-Сісі нібито викрадений ізраїльською спецслужбою «Моссад» та перебуває в тюрмі на півдні Ізраїлю.

Речник МЗС Олег Волошин каже: «Ми це не коментуємо. Адже це іноземний громадянин, і жодна інша держава не зверталася до нас щодо нього. В нас немає підстав стверджувати, що його викрали і вивезли проти його волі».

А на запитання, як часто трапляється, що іноземця силою та без відома влади вивозять з України, посадовець відповів: «Мені не відомі такі випадки».

Ізраїльські правозахисники підтвердили, що Дірар Абу-Сісі був ув'язнений в ізраїльській тюрмі того ж дня, як він зник із потягу «Харків – Київ». Спеціаліст правозахисної організації «Гамокед» Далія Керштейн розповідає: «У тюремній службі підтвердили, що він перебуває у них з 19 лютого 2011 року. Спочатку його помістили у в'язницю поблизу міста Петах-Тіква, тоді перевели до в'язниці «Шикма» біля Ашкелона. Нам відомо, що в обох випадках він перебував під контролем спецслужб. Я не маю жодного уявлення, у чому його звинувачують. Маємо судове рішення, яке забороняє поширювати інформацію про це».

Між тим представник палестинської діаспори у Києві Ях'я Харботлі не виключає, що інженера Дірара Абу-Сісі ізраїльські спецслужби могли вивезти з України без відома її уряду. «Ізраїльська влада підтвердила факт захоплення цього інженера. Про це його адвокатові повідомили в адміністрації тюрми. Українська міліція до цього може бути й непричетною. «Моссад» уже здійснював подібні операції в інших країнах. Інженера могли вивезти дипломатичним транспортом, або літаком з одного з невеликих аеропортів України. З Діраром, гадаю, так і вчинили», – каже він.

Такого сценарію не виключає й український експерт-сходознавець Віктор Каспрук. «Біля Києва є невеликі аеропорти, такі, як Гостомель, саме з них деякі бізнесмени тікали з України. Ймовірно, з такого аеропорту Абу-Сісі відправили до Ізраїлю. Це серйозний тест для країни. Якщо інформація хоча б наполовину правдива – це означає, що влада зовсім не контролює території України», – підсумовує експерт.

Тим часом дружина палестинського інженера, українка Вероніка Абу-Сісі вимагає в українських силових відомств та в ізраїльської влади правди про свого чоловіка. Вона вважає, що справу свідомо затягують.

«Я була у прокуратурі, зі мною чотири години говорили ні про що. В усіх інстанціях знають, що сталося, і заявляють, що не отримували моїх звернень. В посольстві Ізраїлю мені не дали жодної інформації, але обшукали, і зрештою не пустили до будівлі, – скаржиться дружина біженця. – Адвокат Міхала Оргабі, яку надала держава Ізраїль, відмовляється говорити, в чому звинувачують мого чоловіка. Але чомусь щоразу цікавиться, в якій я країні та що я роблю. Я найняла двох приватних адвокатів, 18 березня йому дозволять із ними зустрітися».

Родичі Дірара Абу-Сісі стверджують, що він перебуває в повній ізоляції та що до нього не пускають адвокатів. Дружина інженера та американський блогер Річард Сільверстайн поширили інформацію, що інженера ув'язнили не через імовірні зв'язки з організацією «Хамас», а для того, щоб отримати від нього технічну інформацію про електростанцію та зупинити її в разі масових заворушень у Смузі Гази.

Вистава «Солодка Даруся» за однойменною книгою Марії Матіос – в Канаді!

(Прес-служба Посольства України в Канаді)—У квітня ц.р. українці, що проживають в Торонто, Оттаві та Монреалі, матимуть змогу відвідати театральну виставу «Солодка Даруся» за однойменною книгою Марії Матіос. З виставою на гастролі до Канади приїдуть актори Івано-Франківського академічного обласного українського музично-драматичного театру ім. І.Франка. Крім того, після вистав глядачі також матимуть можливість особисто поспілкуватися із письменницею Марією Матіос.

Прем'єра «Солодкої Дарусі» відбулася 16 листопада 2008 року в Івано-Франківську. Це була експериментальна вистава Ростислава Держипільського, в якій він задіяв випускників Інституту мистецтв Прикарпатського університету імені Василя Стефаника. «Солодка Даруся» була дипломною роботою молодих акторів, яка згодом викликала справжній тріумф. Музичний супровід до вистави написала лауреат національної премії ім. Т.Г.Шевченка Наталія Половинка. «Солодку Дарусю» відразу ж включили до репертуару Івано-Франківського театру і вона стала переможцем різних театральних фестивалів.

Під час гастролей Івано-Франківського театру з «Солодкою Дарусею» містами України відбувся справжній аншлаг. Загалом, з часу прем'єри, актори зіграли виставу більше п'ятдесяти разів у різних містах України.

Вистава «Солодка Даруся» Івано-Франківського театру – один з рідкісних випадків, коли професіональна вправність авторів поєдналася із особистою пристрастю та болем, національною генетичною пам'яттю. Вражає, як правдиво переповідають молоді актори цю високу трагедію про себе. Про нас. Про націю. Про відвічний потяг людини до Світла, до Істини. І про щочасний опір мороку і ненависті.

«Солодка Даруся» Івано-Франківський театру вирізняється експериментальністю: замість пишних декорацій – дві старі лави, крім цього кожен глядач безпосередньо задіяний у дійстві і стає його учасником.

У «Солодкій Дарусі» філігранно поєднані старовинні церковні ірмоси, народні пісні, примхливі візерунки гуцульських танців із вишуканою філософською метафоричністю і стилістичною строгістю сучасного європейського театру.

Але, головне, звичайно, це історія-притча про онімілу напівбожевільну Дарусю, якій випало спокутувати гріхи інших. Її ж провина (дитям вона, не навчена лукавити і брехати, виказала своїх батьків бездушним радянським емгебістам) і не провина зовсім, а прокляття всьому XX сторіччю, що захлинулося у крові та сльозах. Люди втратили страх перед Богом, а Він оглух до їх молитов. І у виставі режисер та актори намагаються усвідомити причини та наслідки цієї грандіозної катастрофи: «зв'язку часів», що розпався, та порушеної священної угоди з Ним.

Марія Матіос – сучасна українська письменниця, авторка більше п'ятнадцяти книг. У 2005 році за роман «Солодка Даруся», який з особливою силою збурив українську спільноту та став культовим для українського читача, М.Матіос стала лауреатом Національної премії України імені Тараса Шевченка». Роком раніше «Солодка Даруся» стала переможцем конкурсу «Книга року».

Марія Матіос має некоронований титул «найбільш плідної письменниці України», а критика її називає як не «чортиком, що вискочив із табакерки», то «грантдамою української літератури».

Маємо честь запросити усіх на перегляд вистави та зустріч із видатною українською письменницею сучасності Марією Матіос. Вистави відбудуться:

• в Оттаві: у четвер 7 квітня о 19:30 в UOC Hall, 1000 Byron Ave. (квитки в Кредитовій спілці «Будучність», інформація (613) 230-2961 дод. 105);

•в Монреалі: в п'ятницю 8 квітня о 19:00 в Домівці СУМ, 3270 Beaubien East (квитки в Meest Montreal – V.Groshko, інформація (514) 593-4715);

• в Торонто: в суботу 9 квітня о 19 годині в Silvertorn Collegiate Institute, 291 Mill Road та в неділю 10 квітня о 15:30 в Українському культурному центрі Christie 83 (квитки в «Міст», Кредитовій спілці «Будучність», магазині «Буква», інформація: (416) 587-1143).

Конкурс імені Квітки Цісик об'єднає всіх зачарованих голосом

Галина Терещук, *Радіо Свобода*

У Львові готуються до першого Міжнародного конкурсу українського романсу імені Квітки Цісик, відомої американської співачки українського походження. Її голос донині вражає і не залишає байдужим. Уже свої заявки на участь у конкурсі, який триватиме з 1 до 4 квітня, подали близько 20 аматорів із 8 країн світу.

Квітка Цісик

Якщо голос Квітки Цісик запав у серце, там він залишається назавжди. Так і трапилось із американським музикантом, продюсером Алексом Гутмахером. Він захворів на рак і в нью-йоркському шпиталі познайомився з українкою з неповторним сопрано.

Коли 29 березня 1998 року Квітка Цісик у віці 44 років відійшла у вічний світ, Алекс Гутмахер постановив, що він своє життя присвятить вшануванню пам'яті талановитої співачки.

У Львові на будинку, де мешкали рідні Квітки, встановили пам'ятну табличку, а одну з вулиць назвали іменем співачки. На черзі перший міжнародний конкурс імені Квітки Цісик у рамках проекту «Незабутня Квітка», який відбуватиметься 1-4 квітня. Адже 4 квітня 1953 року у Нью-Йорку в українській родині народилась співачка.

Уже розпочався збір заявок від охочих взяти участь у конкурсі, подаватись можна до 25 березня. Учасниками можуть бути солісти-вокалісти та ансамблі, люди віком від 18 до 35 років. Конкурсанти повинні підготувати дві пісні: з творчого доробку Квітки Цісик та український романс.

Конкурс має на меті популяризувати як творчість Квітки Цісик, так і український романс, який забутий і незнаний, наголосив ініціатор проекту та меценат Алекс Гутмахер.

«Безумовно, потрібно відроджувати український романс, тому наш конкурс для цього покликаний – популяризувати українську пісню, український романс», – каже продюсер.

Ініціатори конкурсу хочуть привернути увагу до хворих на рак жінок

Грошові винагороди, зауважив Алекс Гутмахер, невеликі: перша премія – 1000 доларів. Але конкурс має ще одну мету: придбати пересувний мамограф для львівського онкоцентру, щоб лікарі могли їздити українськими селами та містечками й обстежувати жінок. Квітка Цісик, як усі жінки в її сім'ї, померла від раку молочних залоз. Утім, для придбання дорогого медичного обладнання потрібні меценати, яких хочуть залучити до конкурсу. Але заможні львів'яни відмовляються від меценатства.

«Коли я зустрічався з хворими жінками та лікарями, то почув, що пересувні мамографи є лише у Черкаській області та в Криму. А що робити жінкам у горах, хто до них доїде, чи вони мають змогу обстежитись?» – непокоїться Алекс Гутмахер.

У рамках міжнародного конкурсу відбудеться виставка малюнків у львівських школах, пластунський курінь імені Квітки Цісик організує для школярів виставу на фактах життя й творчості співачки, в одній зі львівських шкіл уже створюють музей Квітки Цісик, а ще у пологових будинках у Львові проситимуть мам, які народять дівчаток 4 квітня, назвати їх Квітками.

У 1983 році співачка була в Україні. Тоді її пісні не звучали по українському радіо. Вона мріяла про концерт в Україні, але хвороба не дозволила… Втім, і сьогодні не так часто почуєш голос Квітки Цісик із українських телевізійних чи радіоефірів.

Dr. Ledohowski appointed to CMHR Board

(UkrNews)—March 17 James Moore, Minister of Canadian Heritage and Official Languages, announced the appointment of Ukrainian Canadian Dr. Lindy Ledohowski to the Canadian Museum for Human Rights Board of Trustees.

"I am very pleased to announce the appointment of Dr. Lindy Ledohowski," said Moore. "Dr. Ledohowski is a Canadian writer with an impressive academic career. Her professional background will be a valuable asset to the work of the Board."

The Ukrainian Canadian Congress (UCC) welcomed the appointment Dr. Ledohowski.

"Dr. Ledohowski brings excellent subject matter expertise and a wide perspective to the Museum's Board of Trustees," said UCC National President Paul Grod. "The UCC has been asking for a re-constitution of the Board, and this appointment is an important first step in the right direction."

The UCC has asked the Government of Canada to:

• Reconstitute the Museum's Board of Trustees;

• Conduct an independent review of the Museum's design, layout and content in a public and transparent manner to ensure that it is decided upon and displayed in a fair and equitable manner;

• Ensure that the contents of the CMHR be reviewed by a newly appointed, independent and impartial Content Advisory Committee; and

• Make sure that all work and procurement relating to content, design or that may impact on these aspects, be immediately suspended until its design, layout and content has been publicly presented.

The daughter of CanadInns owner and Winnipeg philanthropist Leo Ledohowski, who was recently awarded the Shevchenko Medal, Dr, Ledohowski is currently an Assistant Professor in the Department of English at St. Jerome's University in the University of Waterloo, as well as a communications consultant.

She has written many articles on Ukrainian Canadian literature themes.

Dr. Ledohowski holds a B.A. (Honours) from the University of Manitoba. She also has a B.Ed. in Secondary English and History from the Ontario Institute for Studies in Education and an M.A. and a Ph.D. from the University of Toronto.

Dr. Ledohowski is an active member of Canadian professional associations, such as the Association for Canadian and Québec Literatures (ACQL), the Association of Canadian College and University Teachers of English (ACCUTE), and the Canadian Ethnic Studies Association.

15 more Liberals call for permanent Holodomor exhibit

(UkrNews)—March 9, an additional 15 Liberal MPs added their names to "The Statement of Liberal Members of Parliament on the Canadian Museum for Human Rights" calling for the establishment of a permanent zone (gallery) on the Holodomor (Ukrainian Famine-Genocide) in Canada's national human rights museum (See Ukrainian News, March 3 – 16, 2011).

The 15 new Liberal Members of Parliament are (in alphabetical order): John Cannis (Scarborough Centre), Denis Coderre (Bourassa), Sukh Dhaliwal, (Newton–North Delta), Marc Garneau, (Westmount–Ville-Marie), Mark Holland (Ajax–Pickering), Maria Minna, (Beaches–East York), Brian Murphy (Moncton–Riverview–Dieppe), Shawn Murphy (Charlottetown), Joyce Murray (Vancouver Quadra), Bernard Patry (Pierrefonds–Dollard), Todd Russell (Labrador), Mario Silva (Davenport), Michelle Simson (Scarborough Southwest), Judy Sgro (York West), and Lise Zarac (LaSalle–Émard).

This brings the total number of Liberal Members of Parliament that have publicly called for a permanent zone (exhibit) on the Holodomor in the Canadian Museum for Human Rights to 30.

As of March, Canadian Heritage Minister James Moore has not responded to this statement, which at this point thirty of his Parliamentary colleagues have signed onto.

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Rada checking reports of Gaddafi renting farmland in Ukraine

(Interfax-Ukraine)—The Verkhovna Rada's committee on agricultural policy and land relations is checking allegations that Libyan leader Muammar Gaddafi could be renting farmland in Ukraine, according to Radio Liberty.

The parliamentarians currently have only documents indicating the intentions of the previous government to fulfill Gaddafi's request to grant him a lease on land plots to grow grain crops, in particular, wheat.

The head of the parliamentary committee, Regions Party MP Hryhoriy Kaletnik, told Radio Liberty that after receiving a response to a formal request, it would be clear how these talks end.

"I can confirm that such reports are really being spread by all structures and people. They are calling various figures — in return for oil extraction. I have sent a formal request to the State Register asking them to give me an official response to these reports - how this was registered and whether this really happened. If answers are not given within a month, this will be a violation, and then we will seek [the truth] in a different way, through the Prosecutor General's Office," Kaletnik said.

Ivan Kyrylenko, the former deputy prime minister in charge of agricultural policy and the leader of the parliamentary faction of BYT-Batkivschyna, in turn, said that there was no information about the successful completion of talks with Gaddafi about land lease.

"I know absolutely nothing about this. I haven't heard anything like this. I know that the talks were held for many years so that grain crops are grown under some conditions – either through joint production or using some other opportunities. But apart from the talks, I have not seen any documents indicating this. I think that if it were to happen, it would be known. This would necessarily involve the conclusion of lease agreements, because sublease is banned in our country," he said.

Vasyl Yaroshovets, a deputy chairman of the All-Ukrainian Union of Agricultural Producers, suggested that, if Gaddafi was interested in renting out land, its size would have been big enough to rule out that it could have been rented secretly in a legal way.

"I don't even think this is happening. The matter implied some 100,000 hectares. It is absolutely impossible to get this much land in one piece, because the land is distributed among businesses here. I don't see the chance to do this quickly, it takes a lot of time. There could have been another option, if some structure had ceded its corporate rights, but I don't see this, and these holdings are in public view here. I don't think this is possible," he said.

Miner wage arrears threatens Donetsk environmental catastrophe

(Ukrainian Journal)—The staff of the Chervony Zhovten water pump mine in Yenakiyeve, Donetsk region, have said they are ready to go on strike due to wage arrears.

The miners "are on the verge of a social explosion, they have not been paid this year," the Mining Industry Workers Union has reported on its Web site.

According to the union, the administration of the state-run enterprise Ukrshakhtgidrozakhyst (which owns the mine) has recently said "There is no money, don't even wait for it," citing delays by the Ukrainian cabinet, which has not approved a decree governing the release of funds to Ukrshakhtgidrozakhyst enterprises.

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Son of a Gun! Vinok Creates Big Fun on the Bayou…

By Eva Marie Clarke

There's never been a night like it in the history of Vinok Worldance! One could almost say it tasted and smelled as good as it looked and sounded. For the people who wandered around Bourbon Street – a.k.a the magically transformed Chateau Louis Conference Centre Grand Ballroom – this was a no-holds barred evening of grownup fun, dance, live music, food and drink.

King George and Queen Leanne.

Vinok is famous for its magical, multicultural productions that meld dance and live music from many cultures into unforgettable, emotionally beguiling experiences. This evening was a bit different – bold and brash, while at the same time meeting the professional artistic standard that has propelled Vinok into the forefront as one of Canada's acclaimed purveyors of cultural dance and music.

It also plunged the audience into the world of New Orleans Carnival with myriad food stations offering some tasty dishes – fresh oysters, peel and eat shrimp, catfish and pork po'boy sandwiches, gumbo, mufaletta sandwiches, hot dogs with all the fixings, beignets, pralines and a truly addictive bread pudding with bourbon sauce!

The culinary splendour paled when the performers invaded the space tossing beads to the audience as the musicians let it rip with a truly sprightly version of When the Saints Go Marching In. The parade was led by Queen Leanne and King George – Vinok Artistic Director Leanne Koziak and Chateau Louis General Manager George Marine (wearing the attire of King Louis and Queen Marie of France) – who declared the revels open.

And what revels they were! Just looking at the photographs of Mardi Gras in New Orleans hardly does justice to the vibrant blend of cultures that make this party one of the most famous in the world.

There was no shortage of enthusiastic participants as Vinok invited the audience to join them in a classic American Swing dance or two.

Intricate African, passionate Flamenco, American Swing, Cajun waltzes and jitterbugs all lit up the stage. The unexpected Canadian connection to the Cajuns was celebrated through Cape Breton Stepdance. Fans of Jazz and the Blues didn't go away disappointed either. There was plenty of action live piano music resounded through the solarium, a blues trio got down in the corner, and Dixieland rang out from beside the door.

For the audience, this evening was an adventure with plenty of opportunity to get involved with the action. People flocked to the dance floor to participate in Cajun dance lessons and whirled under the lights to fast paced Swing, a few limber and brave individuals wriggled under a limbo stick, sang some New Orleans classics and then danced through "Bourbon Street." Judging from the animated conversations and tables full of feathered and masked partiers, the social aspect of the evening was a big hit as well.

All in all, this was a party to be remembered! A great time was had by all and we hope to welcome you to Mardi Gras 2012. In the meantime, keep your eyes open for further news on Klondyke Kapers, our fabulous summer show!

"Genocide Revealed" wins Indie Fest International award

The historical feature documentary *Genocide Revealed* produced and directed by Yurij Luhovy has won the prestigious Award of Merit at the Indie Fest International Festival held at La Jolla, California.

The 73 min. documentary is narrated by Oscar-nominated actor Graham Greene and voice-overs are by actress Jill Hennessy and actor Lubomir Mykytiuk.

"How amazing! I am very honoured *Genocide Revealed* has won at the Indie International Film Festival. This award helps give international awareness to a genocide that has been deliberately silenced for too long. I wish to thank everyone that helped support the making of this film," said *Genocide Revealed* Director Yurij Luhovy.

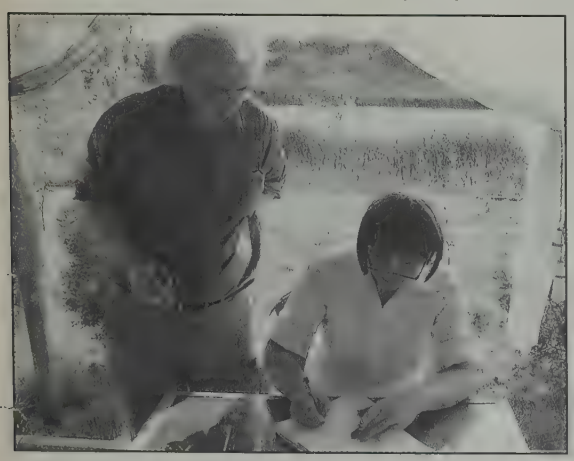
The Indie Fest recognizes film professionals who demonstrate exceptional achievement in craft and creativity, and those who produce stand out entertainment or contribute to profound social change and compelling documentaries. An international awards competition, entries are judged by highly qualified professionals in the film industry.

"In winning an Indie, Yurij Luhovy joins the ranks of other high-profile winners of this internationally respected award," said Thomas Baker Ph.D., who chairs the Indie Fest. "The Indie is not an easy award to win. Entries are received from around the world. The judges were pleased with the exceptionally high quality entries. The goal of the Indie is to help winners achieve the recognition they deserve," he added.

Genocide Revealed will receive The Indie statuette, which is manufactured by the company that makes the world's most prestigious and celebrated awards, the Oscar, Emmy, Clio and MTV Video Music Awards.

Luhovy is currently making a shorter version of the documentary (52min 30sec) for educational purposes.

To arrange for a film showing or to order *Genocide Revealed* call (514) 481 5871; email <mmlinc@hotmail.com.; write to 2330 Beaconsfield Ave, Montreal, Quebec, H4A 2G8 or go to the site: <www.yluhovy.com>.



Director of Genocide Revealed Yurij Luhovy with historian-researcher Nina Lapchynska finalizing shooting schedule in Donetsk oblast.

Dance Academy members perform during the Open House.

St. Matthew's Open House shows how students can "Experience Ukrainian"

(UkrNews)—St. Matthew Catholic Elementary School in Edmonton featured both its Kindergarten and Dance Academy during the "Experience Ukrainian" portion of its Open House, held March 10.

The school, located at 8735 – 132 Avenue offers both the regular English program as well as the Ukrainian Bilingual one.

The Ukrainian bilingual program is a partial immersion program. The core or basic subjects are taught in English. In this program the students continue to develop English language skills and learn Ukrainian for up to 50% of the school day. The students are also exposed to many traditional and religious aspects of the culture throughout the year. St. Matthew has offered the Ukrainian bilingual education since the Bilingual program's inception in 1974.

The bilingual Program begins with Kindergarten which is offered for 2-and-a-half hours in the morning.

Ukrainian is taught using the Nova Program and utilizes play, song and stories.

The Kindergarten program encourages creative expression, personal and social responsibility, early literacy, physical skills and well-being, citizenship and identity.

The Kindergarten experience can also be enriched by St. Josaphat's Sadochok (playschool), which is housed at the school and offers Ukrainian bilingual and Ukrainian immersion classes for ages 19 months to 5 years.

The new Ukrainian Dance Academy has now completed its first year. Darrell Marko is the dance instructor for this year.

This program is designed for the serious dancer and parallels sports academies in Junior and Senior High Schools. The Ukrainian Dance Academy will only be available to a select number of students and remains as an option to students enrolled in the Ukrainian Bilingual Program at St. Matthew School.

For further information or registration opportunities please contact the general office at 780 473 - 6575.

CCSU reaches out to MPs

(CCSU)—The Canadian Conference in Support of Ukraine (CCSU) continues to engage MPs in Ottawa and in their ridings with issues of concern to its members and the Ukrainian Canadian community as a whole, as represented by the Ukrainian Canadian Congress (UCC).

Representatives of the CCSU— Orest Steciw, Adriana Wilson, Christine Czoli, Zenon Ciz and Borys Potapenko — held meetings on Feb. 17 on Parliament Hill with leaders of the Conservative and Liberal Parties. The Executive Director of the UCC, Taras Zalusky, accompanied the CCSU representatives to the meetings.

The delegation met first with MP Mark Warawa (Langley, BC), Chair of the Canada- Ukraine Parliamentary Friendship Group (CUPFG), and MP James Bezan (Selkirk-Interlake, MB), Secretary of the CUPFG. Both Warawa and Bezan were prominent members of Prime Minister Stephen Harper's delegation during his historic trip to Ukraine in October 2010.

Later the same day, they met with the Leader of the Official Opposition, Michael Ignatieff (Etobicoke-Lakeshore, ON), and MP Borys Wrzesnewskyj (Etobicoke-Centre, ON), Vice-Chair of the Canada-Ukraine Parliamentary Friendship Group.

The following week, on Family Day, Feb. 21 the CCSU delegation was in St. Catharines where they were joined by Bohdan Nakonieczny and Irene Newton, President and Board member of the LUC and LUCW chapters in St. Catharines, respectively. They met in his riding office with MP Rick Dykstra (St. Catharines, ON), who is a member of the CUPFG.

Earlier, in January, Bohdan Gogus, Board member of the LUC chapter in Etobicoke, met in the riding office with his MP, Navdeep Bains (Mississauga - Brampton South, ON).

Prior to this latest round of consultations with MPs, and following Prime Minister Harper's trip to Ukraine, representatives of CCSU organizations held a series of meetings in Ottawa with Members of Parliament on Nov. 30, 2010. They called for further Canadian support for the national democratic civic organizations in Ukraine, fighting to preserve hard won democratic freedoms and national independence, freedoms that are now being undermined by the President and Parliament of Ukraine.

Consequently, meetings with MPs held since the New Year are to give further impetus to Ukrainian Canadian efforts, led by the UCC, to secure specific policies and actions on the part of our government:

First, Canada should conduct a comprehensive review of Ukraine's compliance with the bilateral agreement between the two countries, called the "Road Map." To this end, the CCSU delegation called for hearings in Parliament that would keep the spotlight on the conduct of Ukraine's government. They also proposed that the CCSU policy proposal submitted last year to Peter Van Loan, "Canada's Policy Options for Ukraine: Analysis and Recommendations," be given serious consideration during the review process.

Second, the delegation called for the bilateral free trade negotiations with Ukraine to include provisions on human rights and civil liberties, as contained in the aforementioned CCSU policy proposal.

Third, they urged the Members of Parliament, especially members of the CUPFG, to bring to the attention of the delegation from the Ukrainian parliament during the visit to Canada planned for April 2011 concerns over the authoritarian direction by the Ukrainian government, that is actively supported and directed by the Russian Federation.

The CCSU delegation also brought up domestic issues of specific importance to Ukrainian Canadians:

First, is concern that the Holodomor/Genocide of 1932-1933 and the Internment Operations of 1914-1920 will not be included as permanent, prominent and separate "zones" in the Canadian Museum for Human Rights (CMHR). The delegation called for parliamentary and ministerial intervention with a view to assuring that the CMHR will be a truly national museum reflective of Canadian values.

Second, 2011 marks the 120th anniversary of Ukrainians' settlement in Canada, a fitting opportunity to inaugurate the "Pier 21 Project" initiated by the League of Ukrainian Canadian Women. The project will assure that the full story is told about Ukrainian immigrants during and after WWII, and why some by choice and others as political refugees did not return to their homeland, but made the welcoming shores of Canada their new home. The delegation called on MPs to support the "Pier 21 Project" by informing the Minister of Canadian Heritage, James Moore, of their interest in having the implementation of the Project facilitated by the Ministry.

On their part, both the Conservative and Liberal MPs supported parliamentary hearings on Ukraine. During the discussion the CCSU delegation stressed the need for all of the political parties in Parliament to work together to assure that the hearings focus on the key issues of helping Ukraine consolidate democracy, advance human rights and civil liberties, and safeguard its sovereignty and independence in accordance with the provisions of the Road Map of Priorities for Canada-Ukraine Relations.

Bezan and Warawa indicated that they would raise the issue with Conservative members of the Standing Committee on Foreign Affairs and International Development and its subcommittee on International Human Rights. Similarly, Dykstra stated that he would work with MPs Bezan and Warawa in calling for hearings.

On their part, Ignatieff and Wrzesnewskyj agreed with the assessment of the situation in Ukraine presented by the CCSU delegation. The Leader of the Official Opposition said that he has been following developments, shares the concerns of the CCSU, and will consider raising in the House of Commons the question of subcommittee hearings on Ukraine. Earlier, Bains stated that he would support such an initiative by Liberal members in Parliament.

The Conservative and Liberal MPs were in accord on engaging the Ukrainian parliamentarians during their visit to Ottawa in a "clear and candid manner" concerning the retreat from democracy, human rights and civil liberties in Ukraine. Ignatieff stated that the visit would be a useful opportunity to raise pointed questions and to discuss the 'Road Map."

Warawa and Bezan also expressed their support for a "frank discussion" with the delegation from Ukraine.

On the question of the Canadian Museum for Human Rights, the CCSU delegation expressed its appreciation to Bezan for his forthright position, including issuing a video statement in support of a full review and revision of the proposals and the composition of the Museum Board. Also, Dykstra issued his own letter to Minister James Moore calling for a worthy place for the Holodomor Genocide in the Museum.

In his capacity as Vice-Chair of the CUPFG, Wrzesnewskyj initiated a motion calling on Minister Moore and the Museum Board to include a permanent and prominent display of the Holodomor. The motion also calls for a member on the Museum Board to be nominated by the UCC. In their capacities as Chair and Secretary of the CUPFG, Warawa and Bezan, as well as Rick Dykstra, lent their support to the motion, leading to unanimous approval.

Ignatieff told the delegation of his personal involvement in the CMHR issue, when during his recent visit to the Ukrainian community in Winnipeg, local Ukrainians expressed their opposition to the current plans for the Museum. Subsequently, he relayed the concerns to the Executive Director of the Museum. He also assured the delegation that he will continue to share those concerns, including the position that without an accommodation, the Museum will continue to be a point of contention in the long term.

In this regard as well, and at the initiative of Wrzesnewskyj, five MPs from the Liberal Party — Wrzesnewskyj, Bains, Gerard Kennedy (Parkdale-High Park, ON), Bonnie Crombie (Mississauga-Streetsville, ON) and Kevin Lamoureux (Winnipeg North, MB) — issued a joint statement on the Canadian Museum for Human Rights.

The local chapters of CCSU member organizations, especially their students and young professionals, are in the forefront of reaching out to the MPs in their communities. The collective mission is to garner support for Ukraine's efforts to consolidate its hard won independence, to foster a better understanding of Ukraine's tragic history, and to safeguard our Ukrainian Canadian heritage.

The member organizations of the CCSU are: League of Ukrainian Canadians (LUC), League of Ukrainian Canadian Women (LUCW), Ukrainian Youth Association of Canada (CYM), Society of Veterans of UPA, and Homin Ukrainy/Ukrainian Echo community newspaper.

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Dynamo frustrate ten-man Manchester City

(UEFA)—FC Dynamo Kyiv squeezed into the last eight of the UEFA Europa League after limiting Manchester City FC's ten men to a single-goal victory, March 17.

Trailing 2-0 from the first leg, City's hopes took a further dent with the 36th-minute dismissal of Mario Balotelli, and although Aleksandar Kolarov's goal before the break earned Roberto Mancini's men victory on the night, it was not enough.

Dynamo had lost eight of their nine previous games in England and the way City started suggested a long evening beckoned for Yuri Semin's visitors. Carlos Tévez had a shot deflected over inside three minutes, then Micah Richards crossed to Balotelli at the far post but the Italian international blazed over.

It proved an evening to forget for Balotelli, who missed a headed chance, got in the way of a David Silva shot and then got himself sent off for a wild challenge on Goran Popov, the 20-year-old catching the defender in the stomach with a high foot.

Kolarov gave the ten men hope, however, three minutes later. Silva played a short free-kick to the full-back 25 metres from goal out on the City right and he took another step inside before driving a low left-footed strike that slipped under Olexandr Shovkovskiy.

City continued knocking on the door after the restart, Richards powering a header over and Shovkovskiy saving at Silva's feet. However, with the extra man, the visitors began to get forward in greater numbers. Andriy Yarmolenko swerved an ambitious 35-metre drive just wide and after Joe Hart had turned behind Ognjen Vukojević's shot, substitute Denys Garmash had a header nodded off the line by Joleon Lescott.

Roberto Mancini sent on Adam Johnson and Edin Džeko but Shovkovskiy's next save was from his own player as Danilo Silva got a dangerous deflection to Kolarov's cross. Hart foiled Yarmolenko with a fingertip save but with Dynamo's defence holding out at the other end, it did not matter.

Dynamo leave Manchester City reeling

(UEFA)—Andriy Shevchenko and Oleh Gusev struck as FC Dynamo Kyiv established a two-goal advantage against Manchester City FC in the first leg of their UEFA Europa League round of 16 tie, March 10.

Shevchenko, 34, showed he has lost none of his predatory sharpness by turning in Andriy Yarmolenko's inviting cross on 25 minutes. Then, when Manchester City were enjoying their most promising period of the night, Gusev doubled the hosts' lead 13 minutes from time. The Ukrainian team may never have won in England, but that will be of little concern ahead of the return match in seven days' time.

Dynamo goalkeeper Olexandr Shovkovskiy had to be quick off his line early on to prevent Micah Richards reaching a threaded pass from David Silva. Nor was that the only warning sign for the hosts: Aleksandar Kolarov had delivered a dangerous ball across the face of goal during a purposeful start from the English side.

That soon subsided, however, and after Kolarov fired at Shovkovskiy, Dynamo grew into, and began to control, a game which had a decent ebb and flow to it despite the sub-zero temperatures in Kyiv. Dynamo had seen little of the City goal until they went in front through Shevchenko's 67th strike in UEFA competition, with the former AC Milan forward beating goalkeeper Joe Hart to Yarmolenko's teasing left-wing delivery.

The half ended with attempts from the influential Shevchenko and Artem Milevskiy, while after the break Kolarov's effort would have been destined for the top corner but for the head of a Dynamo defender. Only the fingertips of Shovkovskiy then stopped Yaya Touré's measured strike nestling into the bottom corner.

City's Joleon Lescott was next to threaten with a shot from the edge of the box as Roberto Mancini's men started to gain the upper hand. Silva, though, was unable to turn in Pablo Zabaleta's centre when well placed, a miss which proved costly as Gusev rifled in what could be a crucial second for Yuri Semin's team.

Haye clinches superfight with Klitschko

By Frank Haynes, *Scottish Daily Record*

David Haye has branded Wladimir Klitschko "precious" after the pair agreed a £40million (C$62 million) summer unification showdown.

WBA king Haye sparked another war of words over the clash that will now happen on June 25 or July 2 in Germany.

The Londoner says he has pandered to the Ukrainian's ego in order to secure the fight. And he's agreed it will be staged in Klitschko's adopted homeland while also allowing the WBO and IBF champ the honour of entering the ring second.

Haye said: "Now it's signed, this guy has nowhere to run.

"The likelihood is it's going to be in Germany. These guys don't like to travel. I've said, 'OK, I'll turn up there'.

"He also wants to enter the ring second as champion. He's a bit precious our Wladimir Klitschko, so I have given him all these little things, which make him feel he has a mental edge. As long as there's a referee who can count to 10 in the ring and Klitschko is in the ring, then I'll be the new unified champion of the world."

Haye, 30, is likely to face Wladimir's big brother and WBC champ Vitali if he wins before retiring at the end of the year.

He said: "This is what boxing is about. It's about unifying titles and proving who's the best.

"I'm glad we've cut through the nonsense and put together the most important fight in the heavyweight division. We are the best two heavyweights in the world, it would have been a travesty for us to have never fought."

Edmonton's Soccer Club Ukraine.

Edmonton's Soccer Club Ukraine hopes to solidify its foundation

Sports

(SC Ukraine)—Soccer Club Ukraine was started 10 years ago by a group of individuals of Ukrainian heritage from Canada, Ukraine, Bosnia and Poland who shared their passion for soccer as well as for their heritage and decided to form a team that would compete in Edmonton and proudly represent Ukraine. In the past 10 years SC Ukraine has been successfully competing in both Edmonton men's indoor and outdoor soccer leagues. These leagues are regulated by Edmonton and District Soccer Association (EDSA).

Most of SC Ukraine players are students as well as members of various Ukrainian community organizations, Ukrainian dance clubs and in addition volunteer at the various functions. SC Ukraine has always been proud of its heritage and is the team that can communicate in Ukrainian language on the soccer field; discuss Ukrainian culture, history, art and politics; talk about events happening in Ukrainian community off the field as well as trace back areas of its players' ancestors to the common regions. SC Ukraine wishes to keep this sense of belonging, to keep recruiting young players from the community and to avoid meeting the faith of getting disconnected from the community that met some other clubs in the past.

This is getting increasingly challenging mostly to raising costs and lack of funds. EDSA operates both indoor and soccer leagues. They set the cost for each team for participating. Annual cost of the indoor and outdoor season is approximately $5000 per team. This excludes any other cost such as additional tournaments, jerseys, soccer balls or rent of a soccer centre field for practice or exhibition game. SC Ukraine has periodically received funds from community and is extremely thankful to organizations such as Ukrainian Benevolent Society, Ukrainian Senior Citizen's Association of Marko Boyeslaw, League of Ukrainian Canadians-Edmonton Branch, and Bishop Budka Charitable Society. Still in the past and at the present time, this team has been mostly self-funded with players paying for their own registration. SC Ukraine would like to engage more youth to join the club and proudly represent Ukraine and Ukrainian community in Edmonton. However in order to do so, team understands that it will need more support in order to make soccer more affordable to its players. Many young players decide to play with other clubs who have lower fees or have secure funds and hence better training opportunities and are therefore able to compete at the higher level.

In addition to its regular operation, SC Ukraine has also taken the lead in organizing team that will represent Ukraine in upcoming Heritage Cup in Edmonton this year. Heritage Cup (division 2 and lower) along with Mini World Cup are tournaments that are organized by EDSA every two years. SC Ukraine works closely with organizers of other Ukrainian teams in a hope to link them with the community. This year's tournament will take place between March 30 and April 14. Ukraine's Heritage Cup team will face Poland, Albania and India in the first round while Mini World Cup team will play against Serbia, Netherlands and Afghanistan. The Ukrainian women's soccer team will compete against Northern Ireland, Netherlands, Chile, and India. Ukrainian Legends team (men over 45 years) are in the same group with England, Italy and Serbia while Ukraine Vintage team (women over 45) will play against Canada, Scotland, Italy and Netherlands. All the schedules can be found on <www.edsa.org>. Teams hope that community will support them by bringing their passion to the stands.

SC Ukraine has also been officially invited to be one of the 3 teams to represent Canada in the upcoming International Ukrainian Football Tournament (IUFT) in Toronto in August of this year. This tournament sees the participation of numerous teams from Ukraine, Great Britain, USA, Canada and Australia. The tournament provides a place for Ukrainians from across the world to meet, share their passion for soccer, establish new friendship and in turn, strengthen global Ukrainian community. More details about this tournament can be found at <http:www.iuft.net>.

With Euro 2012 coming up and taking place in Ukraine and Poland, SC Ukraine has a chance to solidify its foundation and look into the future. SC Ukraine hopes to build a strong basis for young individuals of Ukrainian heritage from which they would be able to take part in the community, learn more about their heritage, offer support to other organizations and show pride about their heritage through simply playing sport they are passionate about.

For all additional information or potential team sponsorship, please contact SC Ukraine's manager Sasha Simcisin at <simcisin@yahoo.ca>.The team would be glad to hear from you.

Shakhtar complete Roma conquest

(UEFA)—FC Shakhtar Donetsk reached the UEFA Champions League quarter-finals for the first time after an impressive display completed a comfortable aggregate win against AS Roma, March 8.

Mircea Lucescu's side had gone through in each of the previous five UEFA competition ties in which they had won the away leg and rarely looked like relinquishing the 3-2 advantage gained in Rome three weeks earlier.

Willian's cross-shot extended the lead in the 18th minute but the visitors spurned a golden chance to swiftly draw level when Marco Borriello's penalty was saved by Andriy Pyatov and the dismissal of Philippe Mexès effectively ended Roma's hopes before the break. Second-half goals from Willian and Eduardo completed an impressive win for Shakhtar, who now go into the draw for the last eight.

Despite the final margin of victory, Shakhtar were on the back foot in the opening exchanges as Roma pushed forward in numbers and enjoyed the majority of possession. That early momentum was checked when the opening goal arrived at the other end just past the quarter-hour, Willian evading his marker on the left and delivering a low cross which, with Tomáš Hübschman at close quarters, evaded Doni.

Roma continued to press and within ten minutes had the chance to get back into the contest when Borriello was pulled down by Henrik Mkhitaryan. The striker took responsibility himself from the spot, but his low kick was well saved by Pyatov down to his left. The away team's night went from bad to worse when Mexès collected his second yellow card for a foul on Luiz Adriano four minutes before the break.

EU develops ties with Kyiv despite concerns over democracy

By Pavel Korduban

(Jamestown Foundation)—It is clear that problems with democracy and slow reforms in Ukraine under President Viktor Yanukovych have not prevented the European Union from developing closer ties with Kyiv. German Foreign Minister, Guido Westerwelle, and EU chief free trade negotiator, Philippe Cuisson, confirmed recently that the EU will sign a political association and free trade agreement with Ukraine by the end of 2011. Also, the EU has pledged financial assistance to Ukraine. The EU, although reminding Kyiv about the need to adhere to democratic standards on occasions such as new arrests of former government officials, prioritizes the economy, just as Yanukovych wants. One possible explanation is that Brussels is wary of Ukraine's falling back into Russia's orbit.

Cuisson told a roundtable in Kyiv on Feb. 10 that the EU wanted to sign a free trade agreement with Ukraine by the end of 2011. If the document is signed this year, it would come into force in 2013, and within the following decade Ukraine should be fully integrated into Europe's economy like the non-EU members Switzerland or Norway, the Ukrainian cabinet's official website quoted Cuisson as saying. Yanukovych also said on several occasions that the agreement should be signed this year, and on Feb. 9 he instructed the cabinet to speed up the talks whose next round is scheduled for April. It had been agreed earlier that there will be no free trade agreement without a political association accord, consequently Cuisson's statement means that Brussels sees no problem in a Ukraine under Yanukovych becoming a part of Europe politically.

The free trade talks have been difficult. Ukrainian negotiators complain that the EU is reluctant to open its agricultural market to Ukrainian competition. Prime Minister, Mykola Azarov, even told his cabinet on March 2 that Ukraine did not need the agreement at any price. At the same time, there were no recent reports about serious disagreements on political association. Westerwelle made it clear during his visit to Kyiv in early March that economic issues rather than concerns over reports of the persecution of the opposition or media freedoms are at the top of the agenda for the EU's most influential economy, Germany. Westerwelle carefully avoided commenting on Ukrainian domestic developments and discussions on democracy were not on his agenda.

EU enlargement commissioner, Stefan Fule, echoed Westerwelle, speaking in Slovakia one day later. Fule said that although "some described the situation in Ukraine as democratic stagnation," the EU remained committed to deepening ties with Kyiv and that Ukraine recently made important steps in its political and economic development. This statement contrasted with Fule's own warnings issued two months earlier against using criminal prosecution for political purposes, following the arrest of former Interior Minister Yury Lutsenko.

Fule did discuss "basic freedoms and human rights" with Ukrainian First Deputy Prime Minister, Andry Klyuyev, in Brussels earlier this month, saying that the EU wanted Ukraine to develop not only economically but also as a democracy. Yet, this did not prevent the two officials from signing a deal according to which Ukraine should receive 470 million Euros ($654.28 million) in assistance in 2011-2013. The figure is incomparable to the amount of loans that Ukraine receives from the International Monetary Fund and Russia, but the deal has an important symbolic meaning. It is tantamount to the EU acknowledging Ukraine's progress in reforms as during the last years of Viktor Yushchenko's presidency and after Yanukovych's election as president one year ago, the EU made it clear that there would be no assistance without reforms in Ukraine.

In order to qualify for the assistance package, Yanukovych's administration reportedly had to promise the EU to amend the state procurement law which is conducive to corruption in its current form. According to the amendments to the law which were passed last January, tenders are not necessary for buying gas, electricity, heating and related transport services. The EU was promised that tenders would be reintroduced. It is important that the EU chose to believe those promises, although Kyiv failed to adhere to its international obligations spelt out in official documents, let alone promises, on many occasions in the past.

The influential Ukrainian weekly Zerkalo Nedeli suggested that the West, although it does not want Ukraine to repeat the fate of Belarus, has been deliberately avoiding lecturing Kyiv on democracy so as not to anger Yanukovych. Perhaps the newspaper meant that, if angered, Yanukovych would turn his back on the West and allow Moscow to draw Kyiv back into its orbit. Kyiv may choose this option if the political association and free trade talks with the EU fail. Russian officials keep inviting Ukraine to join the Russia-dominated customs union. The most recent such invitation came from visiting Russian Deputy Prime Minister, Igor Shuvalov, who claimed that Ukraine would benefit from joining the customs union and then negotiating free trade with the EU as part of the customs union.

Business

Russia threatens Ukraine on EU free trade

(Ukrainian Journal)—Russia on March 16 threatened to erect prohibitive trade barriers against Ukrainian goods if Kyiv makes progress in talks and signs a free trade accord with the European Union.

Russian Prime Minister Vladimir Putin said that on the other hand Ukraine would "benefit" from joining a trade bloc with Russia, Belarus and Kazakhstan.

The comment comes as Ukraine has been holding the difficult talks with the EU seeking to sign the free trade agreement before the end of the year.

"If Ukraine creates the free trade with the EU and is forced to retreat on many positions that are sensitive to the Ukrainian economy, it will count on selling these goods on the Russian market," Putin said at a meeting in Minsk. "But we will not be able to allow this."

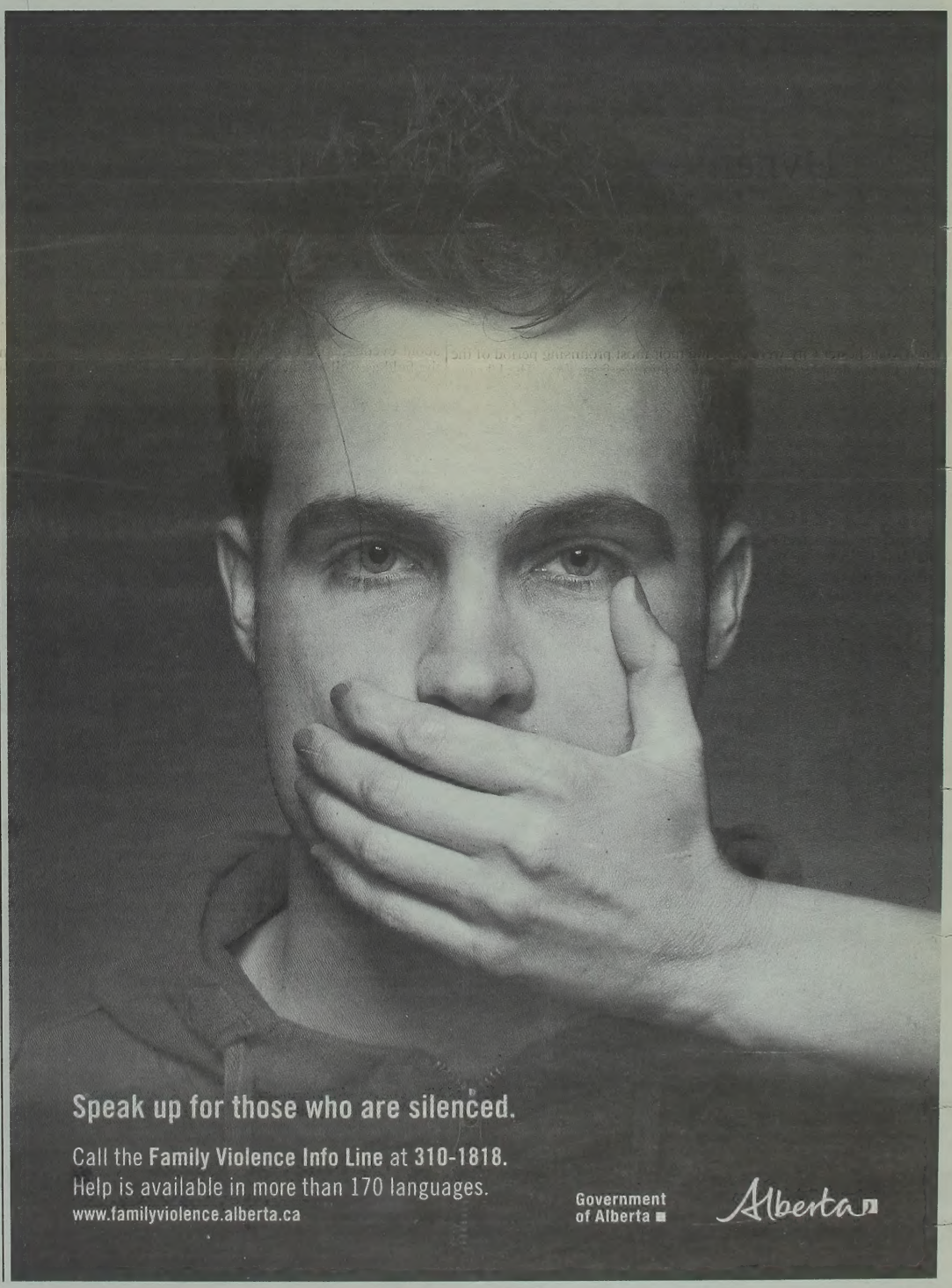
"We will be forced to start building the border or otherwise we will be flooded with these goods," Putin said.

The comment, which comes amid cooling relations between Russia and Ukraine, shows that Moscow has been resorting to political pressure to force Ukraine reject the trade deal with the EU.

"Speaking honestly, without using a diplomatic language, this is simply a blackmail," Stepan Kurpil, an opposition lawmaker and member of the European integration committee in Parliament. "Putin, by making statements like this, de-facto claims having the power of veto on independent foreign policy of Ukraine."

The relations between Ukraine and Russia cooled over the past three months as was reflected in the lack of meetings between President Viktor Yanukovych and his Russian counterpart Dmitry Medvedev.

Yanukovych and Medvedev spoke by phone on March 10, but failed to iron out trade disagreements and that had further postponed their meeting. Medvedev and Yanukovych never met this year, highlighting the slow progress in the trade talks.



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